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MICROFLUTE

Continued from front page
major market opportunity for corrugated, and give customers a much wider choice in material specification," says director Terry Ousley.

Cartonboard producers point out that microflutes are less likely to be specified for premium products and gift packs since the material cannot be embossed. They see it as a complementary rather than competing product.

Cartonflute is being produced at the Corrugated Products Lockerbie plant on a fingerless Asitrade corrugator which, says general manager Bob Thomson, means that no direct pressure is put on the board during production, so avoiding weak points.

Lockerbie has become the first UK integrated corrugated plant to produce a 0.75mm caliper microflute in-house, says the company (King Edward Park, Lockerbie, Dumfriesshire DG11 2BL - tel: 0576 203111, fax: 0576 203436). Graphics can be litho or pre-printed, with a highly accurate print to knife register.

The corrugator can switch to E or B flute and runs at a speed equalling the newly installed Asitrade laminator.

For more paper and board news, turn to our feature starting on page 38.

For further information call 0830 772268

MULTIPACKS

Continued from front page

Film unwinding and cutting is completely mechanical on the HS/D, and there is digital electronic control of all machine functions. Automatic size change is available as an option, but manual size change on the Meri Mate machine will take two operators around 40 minutes, says Aetna.

A full diagnostics read-out is available, and the pc control will signal blockages up or

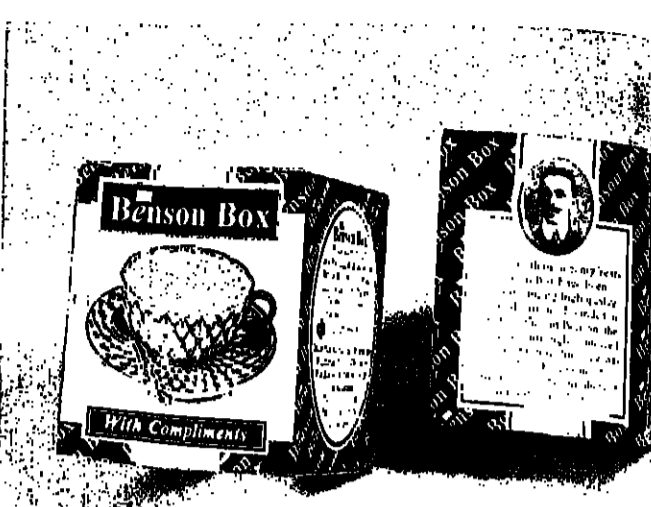
High gloss promotion

On show at Macropak last month was this promotional carton, designed and produced by Benson Box to demonstrate the company's new capabilities since installing its latest Heidelberg Speedmaster press.

Representing an investment of £1.8 million, the six colour machine is a 102S+LYLX and is the first of its kind in the UK. It is equipped with autoplare, semi automatic plate changing, preset register and logistics and nonstop feeder delivery as well as being designed with two coating towers.

"We are now able to increase gloss to previously unknown levels through the application of a water based coating that is dried under a hot air knife before a second coating of high gloss uv," says Nick Benson, sales director of the company (74 Forest Road, Leicester LE5 0DG - tel: 0533 536644, fax: 514537).

These twin coating towers can also be used for metallic varnishes, as a seventh colour, which do not contain any



Several in-line processes were used for these promotional cartons of tea

heavy metals. The promotional carton on show had been matt emulsion varnished, spot uv varnished, foil blocked and embossed and was designed in-house to achieve a life-like portrayal of the cup of tea. These processes, as well as the printing, were all achieved in-line on the newly-installed press.

"This could not have been achieved previously," Mr Benson told *Packaging News*. "and certainly not at a cost effective price." The company is now planning to produce a promotional carton for the

market has been slow to catch up with the success of carry handles on the continent, but that is all set to change, say both Aetna and Meri Mate. Twin Pack has so far had over 100 installations of its single and twin lane systems in the rest of Europe, and there are four of its machines in other UK sectors. Aetna is also now a distributor of 3M tapes and handles.

In a separate installation, the bottler plans to take two KHS Carmichael roll-fed hot

cosmetics business to demonstrate its capabilities to the market.

Another UK firm, achieved by Benson Box, month with the installation of a Bobst SP 103-ER die cut with stripping and blanking.

This will add another dimension to the strip department in terms of efficiency and quality, and according to the company, further demonstrates its aim of more than a 'me too' printer.

For further information call 0830 772268

Each labelling machine in this year, A 44 RI will fill 0.33 line bottles at 45,000 per hour, and a 33RF will be capable of labelling 100 two litre bottles an hour, says the company (Pentland Industrial Estate, Edinburgh EH2 9QJ - tel: 031-440 1774, 031-440 2014).

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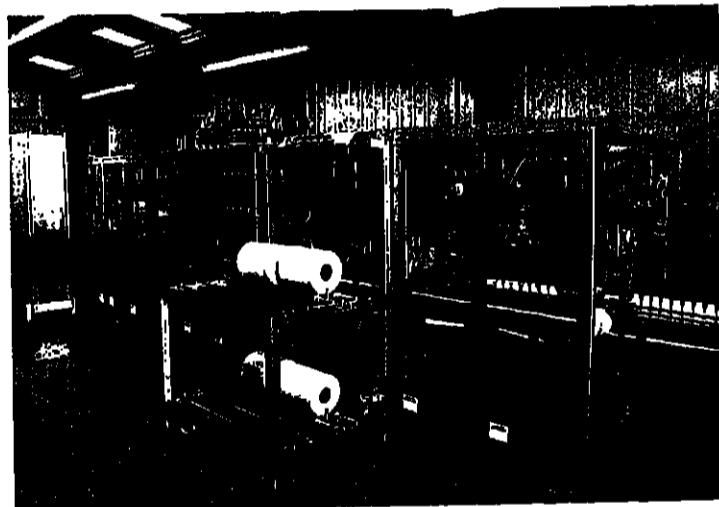
Shrinkwrap handles light unstable bottles

A highly controlled shrink system which collars and wraps "nearly weightless" pharmaceutical bottles at high speed has been developed by EDL for the US market.

Three lines of what Edm Barry Tabor calls "the most highly controlled shrinkwrapping system we have ever built" are being supplied to a major East Coast pharmaceutical company. Since the bottles handled are for doctors' samples, and so contain only three or four pills, they are extremely light and unstable. The weight of an instruction booklet glued to the side of each jar adds to this instability. EDL solved the problem of how to group the contain-

ers to form a uniform pack. "The customer wanted to be seen to be saving on wasteful packaging and also save money. Our system eliminated the need for a carton,

collations. Each of three flight bar systems use integral collators and orienting devices. Lane dividers are servo driven, marshalling bottles into specific lanes while ensuring that the book let is not dislodged.



EDL's high control machine wrapping bottles of pharmaceuticals

A perforating mechanism incorporated into the machines means that each collation can be split into two lots of 2 x 3.

Since bottle size varies, minimal down time between runs

which achieved both objectives," says Mr Tabor.

The end user required containers to be handled at speed, and by applying its flight bar technology EDL says its machine can collate and pack 400 bottles a minute in 4 x 3

was another requirement, and EDL says it has reduced this to just two minutes. Adjustments are via hand wheels, giving maximum flexibility without the need for change parts, says the manufacturer (Upcott Ave, Continued on back page

PRG levy deliberations

Sir Sydney Lipworth was due to announce where the levy will fall to fund the Producer Responsibility Group's recycling and infrastructure scheme as *Packaging News* went to press.

Amid growing speculation as to who will be hit by the levy (see *PN* May), there is mounting concern over the amount needed to fund Valpak, who will run it, and whether there will be any legislation to underpin the scheme.

The main consultation report outlining all the submissions made to the PRG is

to be circulated this month along with Sir Sydney's proposal. He tells *PN* that it will include an explanation as to why the other options have been rejected.

"Further consultation"

There will then be a further month's consultation with the final revised PRG plan due for August but expected in September. The final goal is a promise of legislation in the Queen's Speech in November.

At a specially convened meeting held in June, Sir Sydney drew together members of material associations, retailers and others to present them with, and thrash out, the eight options he is contemplating. These include a landfill levy, a shared burden tax, a combination levy as well as the three proposals in his original brief.

However, many companies are becoming more vocal about not going along with the scheme if the levy falls on them. For this reason the PRG is desperately seeking

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Milton Keynes helps hdpe bottle recycling

Plysu's closed loop hdpe bottle recycling has come on stream, with material supplied by Milton Keynes Borough Council's MRF (material recovery facility). While there are no throughput figures yet, Plysu (Woburn Sands, Milton Keynes, Bucks MK17 8SE - tel: 0908 582311, fax: 586450) says that production of post consumer recycled (per) flake is up to expectations (see *PN* August '93). The company is working on efficiencies in the system, and separation of natural hdpe from other colours. See also *APME* report, page 6.

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Glen's latest pack design for its anti-nausea drug.

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REGULARS

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“In some ways the latest initiative from the Institute of Grocery Distribution (IGD) - which aims to improve the legibility of the printed material on grocery packaging - is a strangely obvious one.

Surely, making it easy for the consumer to read about any products details is a fundamental for any pack designer, brand owner or retailer? (see page 4).

The kind of company that spends thousands of pounds on designing and incorporating a pour spout, reclosable tab or tear tape into its pack - to aid the consumer - must already know how important it is to make packaging 'consumer friendly'. But can we assume this?

In a recent report published by Key Note, the total number of people requiring glasses in the UK is estimated to be 26 million, with a further 1.8 million people wearing contact lenses. So, with potentially 45 per cent of the population affected, this is by no means a minority issue. Also, the predictions about the next five decades seeing an explosion in the numbers of people over 60 in the UK, means that this will become as important as the issue of openability, previously highlighted by the IGD.

As with all of these things, something as simple as making a pack easy to read or easy to open, is not quite as simple on second glance. Although the IGD report acknowledges the pressures on industry to incorporate vast amounts of information on limited surface areas, it does not tackle this issue head on.

According to the IGD report, the two main issues with regard to customers' acceptance of labelling information are the ability to read and also the ability to understand on-pack information. It is evident that there is conflict between the legal requirements for ever more information to be displayed on pack and the requirement to keep information simple, clear and legible, says the report. And this is before any mention of eco-labelling.

As ever, there is also conflict on costs, or should I say conflict on on-costs?

It is all very well and good for these initiatives on openability and legibility to be set up, but in the light of the current wranglings about funding for the Producer Responsibility Group's (PRG) recycling and infrastructure scheme, one wonders what progress will be made without firmer financial commitment (see front page).

Indeed, with a representative from one major retailer telling the Bics conference (see page 3), last month that any costs associated with the PRG environmental plans "will be part of the normal commercial obligations" it does seem that any spare money for whatever initiative will not be forthcoming. As ever, and as the retailer said: "Some [costs] will be passed on, some will be negotiated in price talks."

You have been warned...

Gail Lea, Editor

”

Shift on tagging policy

In a radical shift in policy, the body coordinating UK research into electronic article surveillance (EAS) has switched from the pursuit of a single system to advocating 'open' standards for compatibility between different suppliers' equipment.

The Centre for the Exploitation of Science and Technology (CEST), previously followed the route of examining different eas systems with the objective of arriving at a universally acceptable solution (see PN Feb '94). But now, to enable source tagging - as opposed to in-store application of tags - to take off in the UK, the approach has, says Joshua Bamfield of consultant RMDP, "become more realistic".

Progress towards standards has taken an international turn with CEST entering into a strategic partnership with the Faculty of Logistics at the University of Dortmund, Germany. A standards initiative will only work if undertaken on an international basis, says CEST. The US National Association of Chain Drug

Stores is also involved with identifying joint objectives.

According to Martin Swerdlow, project director at CEST, research will now follow the strategy most favoured by retailers of seeking 'open' standards. These performance parameters will apply to each of the eas technologies, says CEST (5 Berners Road, London N1 0PW - tel: 071-354 9942, fax: 071-354 4301).

"Minimum standards"

This objective, says Mr Swerdlow, involves agreed minimum standards, full compatibility and interchangeability. A key issue is deactivation which, if not properly handled, will cause many problems already experienced in France, for example, with customers' legitimately purchased goods setting off alarms in other stores, say retailers.

Mr Swerdlow is himself impatient with those suggesting that CEST has not moved

quickly enough to satisfy retailers, some of which have gone ahead in trialling one existing system or another, but many of which have been waiting for final recommendations from CEST. "It is within the power of the EAS industry to get its own act together very quickly, if it really wanted to," says Mr Swerdlow.

The RMDP consultancy is organising a conference in cooperation with CEST, 'Intelligent tagging of merchandise', to be held at the Mount Royal Hotel, Marble Arch, London, on 12 October '94.

Aimed at representatives from the entire merchandising chain, speakers will look at the issues relating to source tagging and mapping out future progress. More details from RMDP (The Hildway, Furze Hill, Hove, E Sussex BN3 1PA - tel: 0273 722687, fax: 821463).

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Speedy dual infeed small bag palletiser

A high speed dual infeed palletiser for small bags has been launched by FTH Foerdertechnik, offering advantages of flexibility for bagged product such as detergent, sugar and flour.

The system is especially useful for display pallets as used by the warehouse type supermarket. Aldi in Germany is already displaying one brand of detergent in refill bags palletised on FTH equipment, says sales manager Bob Pollard.

This high speed machine, designed with bagged detergents and soap powders in mind but suitable for other product such as flour, has a dual infeed

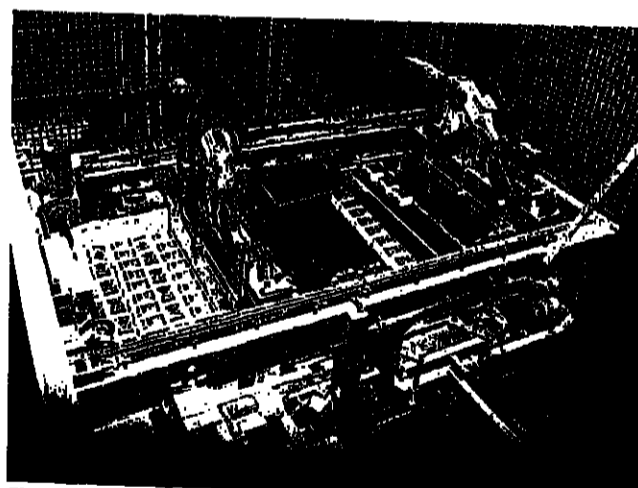
as well as other packs can be handled on the second infeed.

Pallet sizes which can be loaded on the machine include 800 x 1200, 800 x 600 and 400 x 600mm. Between the range of bags and trays which can be handled on the palletiser and the choice of pallet sizes, the system offers users the greatest flexibility, says FTH (Chatsworth House, Prime Business Centre, Raynesway, Derby DE1 7SR - tel: 0332 672888, fax: 679888).

The single infeed palletiser supplying Aldi can load whole or half pallets. FTH Hamburg project manager Reinhold Reiss says other

detergent suppliers in Germany will now have to equip themselves in a similar way.

For further information: K7 269 Call for details 0839 772288



The dual infeed palletiser for small bags by FTH Foerdertechnik

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Credit Control: Janet Ford 081 242 3132
Circulation: Jenny Anthony 081 242 3021
Group Publisher: Julian Maddocks 081 242 3145

Annual subscription £60 for UK and Europe. Elsewhere in the world by air mail £90 or £60 by sea mail. Single copy rate £5.

ISSN 0030-0133
Directorate: Douglas Wright (managing director), Denis Jones, Ronald Osburne, Harvey Botting (vice president, European Publishing)

A Maclean Hunter Publication
Maclean Hunter House, Chalk Lane, Cockfosters Road, Barnet, Herts EN4 0BU
Fax: 081 242 3154
Northern Office: Carrington Business Park, Urmston, Manchester M31 4QW - tel: 061 776 4015, fax: 061 777 6628
Origination: PRS, Huntingdon
Printed: E.T. Heron & Co Ltd, Heybridge, Essex

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Pint milk bottle gives easy open shopper incentive

The first pint bottle for milk designed specifically with ergonomic easy opening in mind is being stocked in Tesco stores as an added incentive for supermarket milk purchase.

With a market share of liquid milk sales said to be 43 per

cent, although it would be suitable for a 2-pint version, says blowmoulder Blowplast (Units 13-14, Dashwood Works, Dashwood Ave, High Wycombe HP12 3ED - tel/fax: 0494 472321). Given the target consumer, not primarily the family



shopper, the single pint bottle is likely to be the most significant.

New machines, which would allow higher volume production, are expected to be installed this month, says manager Alan White.

The new design will also fuel competition with the liquid carton manufacturers, who have recently introduced easy open options to meet similar consumer needs. With an increasing proportion of sales - particularly of staple products such as milk - going to the 'grey consumer', suppliers are keen to add value to packaging.

Selkley Vale uses advanced chilling and packing techniques to allow processing and packing of milk within 24 hours. A £400,000 investment programme is currently underway to increase capacity, says the dairy.

For further information: K7 197 Call for details 0839 772288

So far, the bottle has just been produced in a 1-pint size,

Conference outlines savings opportunities

Delegates at the "Turning packaging waste recovery targets into opportunities to gain" conference, held by Bics International in association with Packaging News, heard that this will only be achieved if the government underpins the Producer Responsibility Group plan with legislation.

"Material and labour cost savings"

Details of how to achieve savings were shown by both McDonald's and Safeway stores plc. Mr Matthews said the change from packaging soft drink syrups in 5 litre hdpe plastics jugs to a mixture of

bulk delivery and storage and bag in box using a pe film bag has saved them £1 million pounds in material, production and labour costs, plus additional revenue from reduced waste disposal costs.

Safeway gave extensive details on measures that can be adopted by all companies, and showed how it had achieved £1.2 million of savings and a reduction of 700,000 tonnes of packaging waste a year.

Discussion also focused on the customer supplier relationship. Michael Matthews, vice president director of quality at McDonald's Restaurants Ltd, said: "The relationship with suppliers is critical to our success. They are expected to work towards established goals for waste minimisation,

energy efficiencies and to produce sound production practices which minimise environmental impact."

"Making demands"

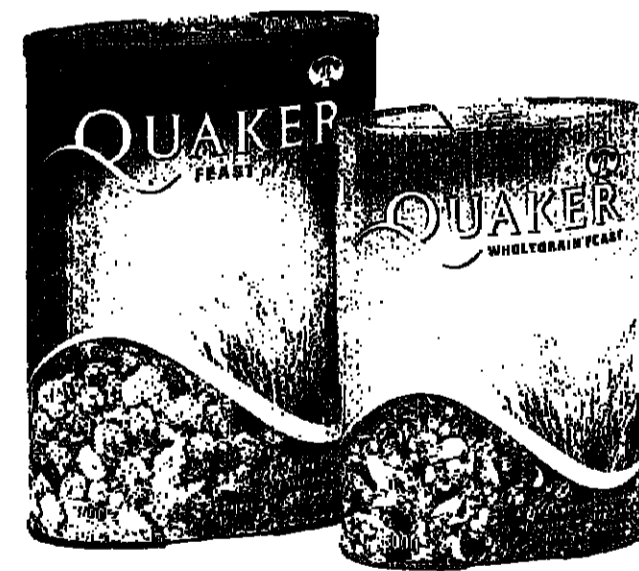
Speakers encouraged delegates to make demands on their customers or suppliers. David Wheeler, general manager environment health and safety at The Body Shop International, explained his company does this by being very material specific. "The first choice for polymers for most primary packaging applications are restricted to polyethylene and polypropylene. Pvc will not be specified in any circumstance."

Paul Knockner, vice president environmental affairs at Continental Can Europe, said the big brand manufacturers are making demands on them and carrying out audits. While others reported that packers and fillers are also making environmental demands.

However, it was not all good news. David Eggleston, environment manager at Linpac Plastics International Ltd said, "We are seeing no pressure from the retailers. The only thing they are interested in is price and driving it down as far as they can."

Gail Gunn, environmental affairs director at Tetra Pak UK Ltd, detailed the educational efforts made by the company to highlight the different, often contradictory, pressures made on all packaging.

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Help for those with poor eyesight

Pack legibility for consumers with poor eyesight should be a major priority for designers and retailers, says the IGD (Institute of Grocery Distribution), which has unveiled proposals aimed at making key information easier to read.

This is the latest initiative in the Institute's Consumer Concern Programme, which also sparked the continuing debate around openability. This set of proposals for legibility arises out of concern for the estimated 970,000 people in the UK who are blind or partially sighted and the increasing average age of the population.

"Lots of people are talking about what information should go onto packs. Our concern is that people whose eyesight isn't perfect should have a chance of

being able to read that information," says Dr John Gill of the RNIB (Royal National Institute for the Blind) introducing the initiative.

"Headed boxes can be helpful"

Before the reading stage, information can be made easier to locate by simply adapting layout. Headed boxes, preferably tinted to a lighter colour than the main pack, can help.

Bold lettering, bullet points and italics should be used selectively for easier reading. Features to avoid where possible are long lines of text - especially small lettering - hyphens,

right justification, lines which are close together and lettering which is shadowed.

Point size, though not the only consideration, is clearly important, says the IGD. Six point is recommended for normal text and 12 point for warnings. White text on a dark background should not be used under 12 point, below which dark on light is better. It is best to avoid certain combinations because, the IGD points out, 16 per cent of the male population is colour blind.

Budgens, which is represented on the IGD advisory working group alongside other retailers, manufacturers and consumer groups, says it has already implemented many of the recommendations on its regenerated own label prod-

ucts. Dip Chotai, marketing manager for own label, says that while the suggestions are sound, the report ducks the issues of legislation, MAFF guidelines for information and the basic concern of cost, especially for labels.

"The need to project an image"

Packs for product such as cheese, says Mr Chotai, are relatively small, but labels must carry nutritional information, country of origin and weight/price data. All this must be balanced against the need to project an image in order to sell the pack. There are also

Legibility Recommendations

Key recommendations from the IGD to enhance the legibility of on-pack information are:

- Use boxes to make the basic layout clear,
- Use bold typeface, bullet points and italics selectively,
- Use short, well-spaced, left-justified lines of text, mixing upper and lower case,
- Use dark text on a lighter background where possible in text less than 12 point,
- Use type of six point and upwards, 12 point for warnings,
- Use sans serif fonts,
- Use recognised diagrams where possible.

technical limitations with packs such as yoghurt pots, he says, where print quality can be so poor that even six point may be unclear.

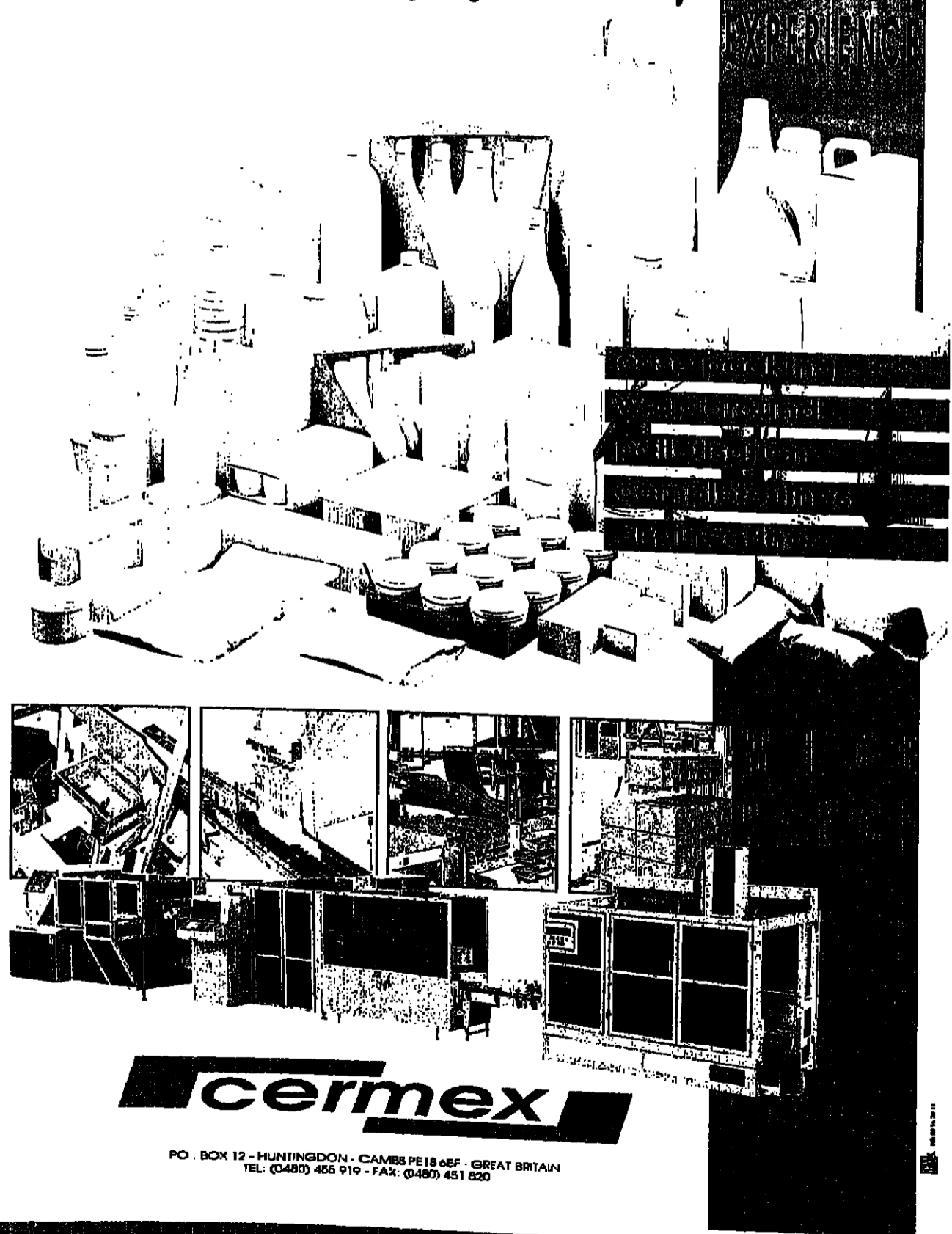
Birmingham University's Centre for Applied Gerontology, also part of the working group, has worked on legibility research for Tetra Pak. Graphic designers for its cartons will now be given a set of recommendations based on this

research and the IGD findings. The clarity and standardisation of opening instructions are of particular concern to Tetra Pak, says marketing manager for milk, James Bryant.

For a copy of the IGD report, contact the institute in Letchmore Heath, Watford, Herts, WD2 8DQ - tel: 092 857141, fax: 852531.

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The artists colours launched by Chromacolour International Ltd

Overprinting system gives paints flexibility

Flexibility was the key to solving a problem for Chromacolour International Ltd in labelling its just launched mail order range of multi-purpose artists colours.

The solution was achieved by installing a complete overprinting and labelling system custom built by Sessions of York (The Ebor Press, Huntingdon Road, York YO3 9HS - tel: 0904 659224, fax: 644888).

Described by Chromacolour as the only major product to be launched onto the fine art market during the past 30 years, the paints are supplied in 80 shades, and in metal tubes or clear plastics bottles.

Variable information

"When we introduced the range we couldn't know how well and in what ratios the various colours would sell," explains Jon Prudence, Chromacolour's director of marketing. "As it was impracticable and costly to pre-print labels for each colour, we opted for a system which could overprint

variable information to match individual product demand."

The system comprises a Speedline III label creation package, a Mustang 1000 thermal transfer printer with rewriter and an RC30 automatic labeller. For the tubes, Sessions provides a series of 24 wraparound labels incorporating a printed colour strip as a point of reference. The bottles feature a five colour printed wraparound label containing fixed information, including company brand logo.

Applied in register

The Mustang 1000, linked to its computer system and driven by Speedline III, overprints both types of label with the colour name - in English, French and German - colour number and permanence rating at speeds up to 125mm a second. The labels are then applied in register to the tubes and bottles by the RC30, operating at up to 70 containers a minute.

For further information K7 111 Call for details 0839 772268

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Recycling efficiencies gauged

Compared with energy recovery, and without that as an option, mechanical recycling rates for hdp bottles would have to top 52 per cent to make the same energy savings, says a report supported by APME (Association of Plastics Manufacturers in Europe).

Research carried out with successful recycling schemes run by Dow Europe, Otto and Ravago shows that mechanical recycling alone is inefficient unless combined with energy recovery, says the APME. Least efficient is a combination of recycling, incineration with-

out energy recovery and landfill, according to the report.

The research comes as Pysu plc begins production of recycled hdp flake from collected containers. Material is diverted from the Milton Keynes municipal waste stream (see page 1).

According to Brian Haigh, technical director at Pysu, the APME is right to be looking at ways to make the best use of resources. In Pysu's case, it is better to source the material it requires locally rather than, say, from Germany, he explains, but the company is

not saying that any single waste solution is the answer.

Pysu and Malcolm Macintyre lists commercial benefits to the company alongside community interest and the meeting of government targets as the reasons behind Pysu's initiative. The company hopes that the installation will supply it with 1000 tonnes of recycle in the first year, rising to around 5000 tonnes a year.

The APME believes the findings of the Dow report support the view that specific material types, waste streams, and geographic infrastruc-

tures will all determine which balance of solutions is the most efficient.

"Both legislators and consumers have adopted the mechanical recycling message with such enthusiasm that existing infrastructures may soon be overwhelmed," comments co-author of the report David Russell of Dow Europe sa.

Copies of the report *Weighing up the Options* by David Russell and John O'Neill of Dow and Ian Boustead, can be obtained from the APME (Ave E Van Nieuwenhuysse 4, Box 3, 1160 Brussels, Belgium - tel: 010 32 2 6728259, fax: 6753935).

For further information K7 200 Call for details 0839 772268



Sleeve gives visibility

A single piece of board which, when erected, provides an effective 'sleeve' to allow visibility for two bottles while at the same time giving strength and durability to the overall pack, has been designed by Trenton Box Company Ltd for products in the Simoniz range.

This is achieved by using a carrier board and a combination of cuts and creases, mak-

ing it possible to despatch the pack to Simoniz in the flat, says Trenton (Marston Road, St Neots, Huntingdon, Cambs PE19 2HF - tel: 0480 473681, fax: 406225).

The so called Twin Pack is used by Simoniz for its Liquid Diamond Polish and Liquid Diamond Shampoo.

For further information K7 199 Call for details 0839 772268

Reusable transit solution

A resistant and conductive transit solution has been developed by Evode Industrial Division for solvated adhesives, with similar systems for hot melt and water based products.

Evode required transit packs which would be reusable rather than recyclable and offer the necessary resistance to solvents in the adhesives while ensuring there was no danger of combustion from static discharge.

"Stopping air pockets"

The solution is a solvent-resistant plastics liner for its 200 litre drums which is attached to the container by an integral collar. When filling each drum, an airline is used to ensure that the liner fills out and that no air pockets are left. Once the drum is full and the liner

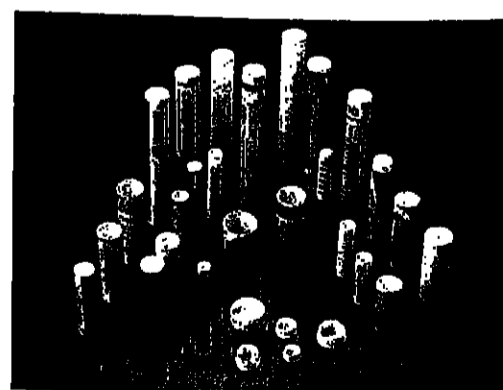
sealed, the steel lid can be secured as normal. Similar liners can be used in its one-tonne polybottle ibes.

At the customer's end, the liner can be cut open and product dispensed through the bung or pumped from the drum, which can be reused without any of the problems of product residue and the additional cost for their removal. The system will cut disposal costs for both Evode and its customers, says Richard Harris, industrial marketing manager.

Without disclosing the composition of the plastics liner, which it describes as specially engineered and of complex construction, Evode (Common Road, Stafford ST16 3EH - tel: 0785 57755, fax: 52337) says it identified the product after lengthy research.

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PACKAGING NEWS/JULY 1994

Twin aperture container first

A twin aperture, 30 litre container has been developed by RPC Containers Rushden for leading chemical distributor, Ellis & Everard, the first time this combination has been used on a large container.

Pack design is based on RPC's 30 litre square/round container and will be used to pack hydrogen peroxide.

The mono layer hmpc container features two closures, a 66mm vented cap for the main aperture with a secondary trisure 3/4in bung on the other side of the top of the container. This ensures that there is no gugging when pouring, according to RPC (Northampton Road, Rushden, Northants NN10 6AL - tel: 0933 59136, fax: 410406).

Special heavy duty hmpc has been used for this application because of the aggressive nature of the product being packed and the containers have received UN Packing Group II certification.

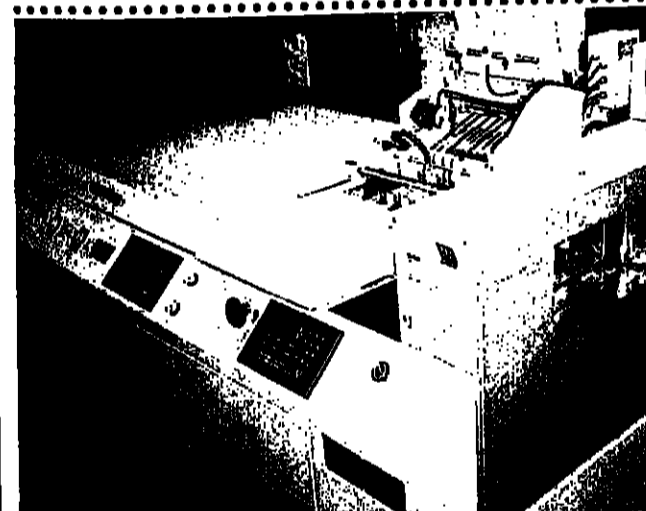
"We have been delighted with RPC's technical input and the container which has resulted," says David Morton, product manager at Ellis & Everard. "In particular the



The mono layer hmpc container features two closures, a 66mm vented cap for the main aperture with a secondary trisure 3/4in bung on the other side of the top of the container

unique anti-glug feature is a major boon for the packaging of this type of product."

For further information K7 116 Call for details 0839 772268



The metric batch counter with a Solla plastics/paper bander

Metric batch counter

The first metric batch counter available from Longford Equipment International was demonstrated with a Solla plastics/paper bander at Dutch exhibition, Macropak.

Suitable for products ranging from business card size up to 6 x 10in, the machine is perfect for anyone who currently wraps products, but would rather just band, says Longford (Gouverneur Roppesingel 81/2b, 3500 Hasselt, Belgium - tel: +32 11284026, fax: +32 11284032).

Increased production speeds and fast changeovers are also offered by this new unit. For instance, ten sets of 30 postcards (5 x 7in) can be batch counted and banded at up to 300 a minute.

"Solla build the best banders available and we believe this combined development will bring benefits to the market," Edward Pateron of Longford tells *Packaging News*.

For further information K7 117 Call for details 0839 772268

Ps business integration

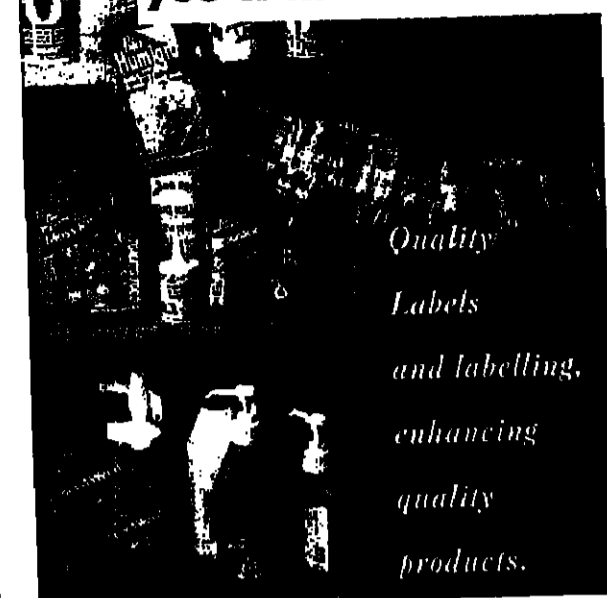
With a view to pursuing its multi-product customer focus, Elf Atochem UK Ltd's polystyrene business sales team has been integrated into the commodity plastics sales division based at the company's head office in Thatcham, Berks.

John Barron, the polystyrene business manager, and his team, will now report to

Phil Jarvis who will have overall responsibility for polyolefins, polystyrenes and pvc resins. Before the end of the year, the polystyrene sales administration personnel will also relocate to Thatcham (0635 870000). Customers will be informed separately of the date on which this move will take place, says the company.

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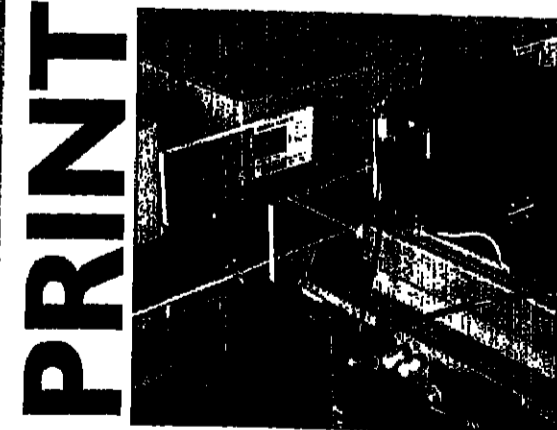
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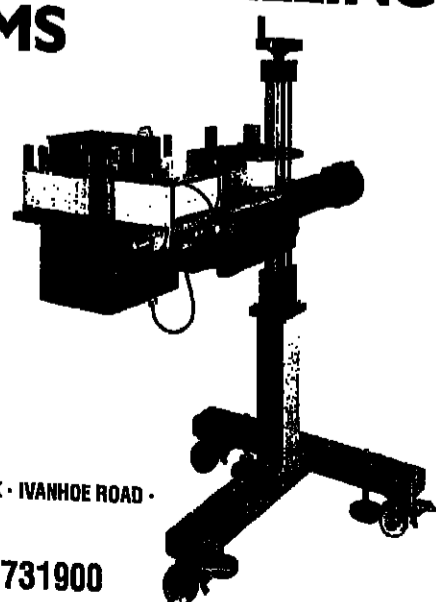
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PACKAGING NEWS/JULY 1994

Plastics prices climb

Two plastics material suppliers - DuPont and Elf Atochem - have announced price increases for their materials, continuing the overall upward trend over recent months.

The price for all grades of DuPont's Mylar polyester packaging film has increased by a minimum of 15p per kg which is necessary, says the company (0442 218500), to offset its reduced margins. Rising raw material prices and the need for higher spending on environmental protection and waste recycling has accounted for this pressure on margins.

Elf Atochem says that with the supplies of styrene monomer and polystyrene becoming tighter over the last six months, the upward pressure on prices that has been experienced in the market since the end of 1992 is expected to accelerate during 1994.

A 20 per cent increase has led to a minimum price for general purpose polystyrene of £740 a tonne and £820 a tonne as an average for all ps grades, says the company (0635 870000).

Self-injectable device for anti-migraine drug

Glaxo's anti-migraine drug sumatriptan, branded Imigran in the UK, is now available for patients to administer themselves using a sophisticated self-injectable device.

The multi-part pack, which has taken eight years to develop, is manufactured and assembled for Glaxo by Betts Plastics, part of Courtaulds Packaging, within the Clean Room at the company's

Wrexham factory. The project represents an overall investment of £5 million.

The auto-injector device, and the overall pack presentation, was designed by Glaxo Research and Development Ltd, in consultation with other Glaxo companies and Betts Plastics (Colchester, Essex CO4 4HE - tel: 0206 753400, fax: 844002).

The function of the system

was always of paramount importance in the design stages, with the final design concept taking one year to develop. After a further two years, prototypes were available for testing prior to large scale manufacture, so that now the auto-injector is being used throughout the world.

The complete pack consists of a pen kit, which is a spring operated injector, and two

with a pre-filled syringe. This procedure is said by the company to save the patient from the sight of the syringe or needle even when loading or unloading from either of the two refill cartridges.

The pen kit itself is comprised of six separate mouldings and two springs while the refill pack has two assembled components which contain two sub-assemblies, each made up of two mouldings and a spring. The light grey carrycase displays the Glaxo name and the brand name - logo tamper-printed in four colours - and is itself manufactured in three parts.

The pen kit and double refill cartridge are held in

The multi-part Imigran pack is manufactured and assembled for Glaxo by Betts Plastics

refill cartridges all contained in a slim case, specifically designed to be unobtrusive to carry and easy to use. In size and appearance the pen kit resembles a small marker pen and can be loaded by the user

place inside the case in a light blue compartment which, in turn, is attached to the case via an integral hinge on the side of the insert which clips inside the lid. This configuration enables the lid to be opened on one side, which is said to allow for easy access to the components inside.

"Procedure saves the patient from the sight of the syringe or needle"

Once the refill cartridge is inserted, a housing clip at the base of the cartridge locks into a circular hole on both the front and back of the carrycase. To remove the refill pack after use, the patient simply depresses the two visible tabs and lifts the cartridge out.

All components, which are manufactured from either pp, acetal or abs, are made, assembled and tested within Wrexham's Class J Clean Room. Functional tests are also carried out on each device and refill cartridge before it leaves the plant.

For further information K7-115 Call for details 0839 772268



Ecotop easy open end: extended to Sainsbury's Cool Crush range

Soft drink success for easy open end

The marketing advantages of the all-steel Ecotop easy open end, used with great success on Sainsbury's Gio soft drink, have been extended to a relaunch and extension of the retailer's Cool Crush range.

Although the easy-open advantages of the system have so far been applied to soft drinks, British Steel Tinplate (BST), which manufactures the can top, has had enquiries for applications as diverse as still soft drinks, beer and cider.

"Convinced of potential"

While priding itself on being an innovator in packaging design, Sainsbury examined all ideas carefully before being convinced of their commercial potential, says Mike Bates, senior manager of soft drinks buying. "Ecotop has demonstrated its appeal, and we have seen the sales of Gio far outstrip similar products in our stores," he adds.

This time, Sainsbury decided on a nationwide launch

rather than a phased introduction. The easy open feature of the can is a major selling point and is highlighted on the pack, six-can multipack and product literature. According to the store's own research prior to the launch of Gio, nearly three out of four consumers preferred the Ecotop to aluminium stay-on tabs.

"Increasing supply"

The Ecotop steel can end was developed jointly by British Steel (Group Commercial Office: PO Box 18, Ebbw Vale, Gwent NP23 6YL - tel: 0495 350011, fax: 497601) and other partners in Europe - Hoogovens and Rasselstein. British Steel is planning to increase supply to meet this new demand.

The Ecotop contains 25 per cent recycled steel, and offers a positive environmental profile, says BST, in terms of energy used in production.

For further information K7-192 Call for details 0839 772268

Speedy laser print for barcode volume

High speed continuous laser printing for high volume users of barcodes is possible with the Laserfold 300E printer from Pentax. Running at speeds of up to 16 pages a minute, the 300E will print 300 dpi on continuous feed labels, and is designed for packaging and distribution environments.

"In addition to producing high quality accurate output which makes for easy barcode reading, the 300E provides premiums in terms of small size and low noise level," says John

Dickins, information technology product manager at Pentax.

As it uses laser rather than impact mechanisms it has a low noise level, below 53 decibels says Pentax (Heron Drive, Langley, Slough SL3 8PN - tel: 0753 792792, fax: 792794). The printer measures 460 x 185 x 523mm and weighs just 20kg.

It can be connected to most mainframe and midrange computers, or used on a network. Offering a series of proprietary interfaces, its standard emulations include the HP Laserjet II

For further information K7-193 Call for details 0839 772268

In-house embossing board quality achieved

Producers of corrugated board for display and gift cartons report an increase in the quality of embossing achievable with in-house processes - which can equally be used for microflute grades.

Among supplies of the large whisky distillers, embossing and foil blocking in association with litho lamination have been a standard part of their product for some time. There has sometimes been a problem in the past with a flattening of the decoration once the embossed board was laminated to the base flute.

But converters report that trials with different adhesives, material grades and embossing dies have produced results comparable, with, for example, more complex processes using thinner substrates sheet fed onto double face material.

As reported in PN last month, Cartonflute has been launched by David S Smith Corrugated Products (King

Edward Park, Lockerbie, Dumfriesshire DG11 2BL - tel: 0576 203111, fax: 203436).

Like E and B flute, of course, board for Cartonflute can be embossed in-house prior to lamination, and many end uses will require this process. Although embossing is not carried out through the flute, we may have inadvertently given the impression in our last report that Cartonflute cannot be embossed at all.

Sean Mason, production services manager at Field Packaging in East Kilbride (PO Box 330, Leeburn Place, East Kilbride, Lanarks G74 4LR - tel: 03552 41188, fax: 77992), reports great success on the heavier flute grades, embossing and laminating on Bobst and Asitrad equipment.

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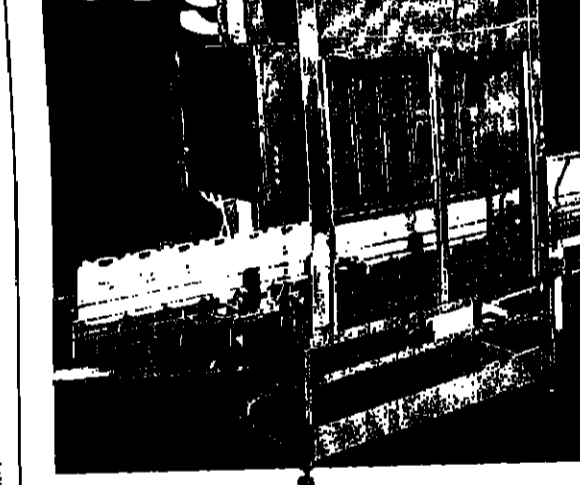
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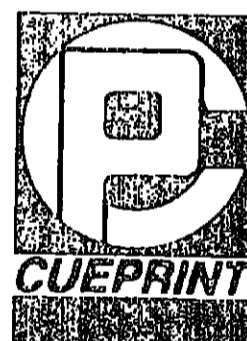
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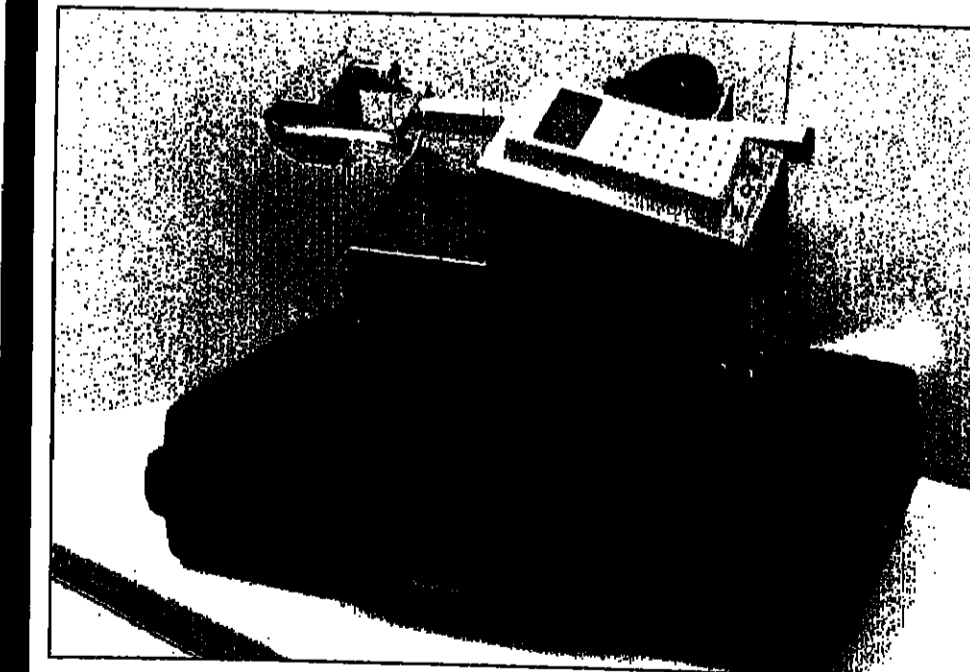


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Tailor made for retail

Retailpack '95, a show dedicated to the £6.6 billion consumer goods packaging sector, is being organised by Gary Swinford and Roger Coles with the backing of IIR International Exhibitions Ltd.

"Will not include any machinery"

Aimed at consumer goods, food and drink, pharmaceuticals, cosmetics/toiletries and diy sectors it will be held from 28 to 30 November at Olympia in London, and expects to attract around 8000 visitors and 150 exhibitors.

A smaller, more tailor made show than others, it will not

include the machinery side of packaging but will concentrate on materials and design, containers and contract packing.

It aims to attract the complete team involved in packaging retail products from the designer and marketer to packaging technologists, brand managers and buyers.

Gary Swinford says: "Retailpack will have the advantage of offering visitors a concentration of purely packaging companies for consumer goods, providing a showcase of nothing but the type of company they want to see."

For more information contact PO Box 11 Kingswood, Bristol BS15 7BY - tel: 0272 672556, fax: 672574.

For further information K7 Call for details 0839 772268

Tougher adhesive bonding for decorative whisky bottle labels

A specially formulated adhesive which can withstand the high temperatures required during the transportation of William Grant & Sons Glenfiddich Excellence whisky to the Far East has been developed by Dunlop Adhesives.

The adhesive is used for bonding decorative seals on the bottles of 18-year-old premium whisky. The requirement for the adhesive followed the launch of the whisky in the Far East market. Volume production output was increased and the seal features were also adapted.

William Grant & Sons tells Packaging News: "We changed from the original hot wax decorative seal formed in the carouche area of the bottle to a replica injection moulded seal bonded to the bottle. An epoxy resin was initially utilised, which allowed us to meet the desired increase in production levels."

However, the company perceived that temperature fluctuations inside containers in the ships created instability in the adhesion bond.

"Obviously, it was essential that the quality image of our



Glenfiddich Excellence, with seals bonded by the Dunlop adhesive

products was not compromised in any way by seals becoming detached in transit. Equally it was important that production speeds should be maintained as near as possible to those achieved with the original adhesive," says the company.

After rigorous trials including humidity and transit tests the Dunlop adhesive was selected. William Grant is now

also using its application for other embellishments to glass.

"The high viscosity rubber-based adhesive has a broad temperature tolerance and high impact resistance needed for transit," says Dunlop (Chester Road, Birmingham, W Midlands B35 7AL - tel: 021-373 8101, fax: 021-384 2826).

For further information K7 Call for details 0839 772268

Pp tape system bands pallet loads of tiles

A complete system for banding pallet loads of tiles with brand-specific pp tape, adapted to retain batch-specific inkjet coding, has been developed by Redland Tiles with the Universal Tape Printing Co Ltd (UTP).

With 144 types of tile produced at its Leighton Buzzard plant, many with a very similar appearance - especially once protective opaque film has been put over the top of each load - Redland wanted a system which guaranteed identification of each pallet load while giving it the stability it required. Scuffing between loosely packed tiles in transit is a particular problem in the industry.

"Discussed the problem"

After Redland had discussed the problem with UTP, the tape manufacturer came up with the solution of applying bands of adhesive tape around the top and bottom of each load. This gives tightness to the layers while also including the Redland branding.

UTP and Redland worked

together to determine the best type and width of tape. Weather resistance and printability were key considerations. In fact, the pp tape used includes densitised patches to allow better adhesion of the inkjet.

Redland designed the turntable which wraps tape around the load. Just before it is applied, the top and bottom lengths of tape are simultaneously coded. The inkjet, too, was engineered by the company.

Information now put onto each pallet load includes the name of the type of tile, its serial type and a date code. The company branding was easily added to the base tape by UTP (Tape House, Shire Hill Industrial Estate, Saffron Walden, Essex CB11 3AQ - tel: 0799 513300, fax: 521968).

Redland's Leighton Buzzard plant produces half a million tiles a week, with 40 or so lorry loads being shipped out every day. At any one time there may be 40,000 pallets awaiting delivery in the company's stockyard, so clear identification is obviously critical.

For further information K7 Call for details 0839 772268



Wrapping is tightly secured by tape bearing the identification

Mounting inkjet onto ffs

An X-Y traversing system for mounting inkjet printers onto ffs machines where variable coding is required has been launched by Transpec Ltd.

Steeper or pneumatic actuation or a combination of the two is used on the system, which can be mounted on most varieties of ffs machine, whether vertical or horizontal, across a web or for packs in multiple positions. It can handle one, two or three drop systems.

While many packing lines will use hot foil printers for

this type of information, Transpec's system - with a plc interfacing directly with the host machine - is itself easily programmable, as are the inkjet printers that the company works with. Transpec will work on installations with any of the major inkjet companies.

A sensing bar, which can be easily changed and is equipped with a handwheel height adjuster, allows for rapid changeover between product, says Transpec (Hindley Green Industrial Estate, Hindley Green, Wigan WN2 4HS - tel: 0942 56669, fax: 59970).

The uncluttered design is manufactured to hygienic standards which make it suitable for use in the food and pharmaceutical industries.

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Biscuit colour impact

Blending of separate graphic elements on Soltax was just one of the steps in a design for biscuit cartons and tins which the Green House worked on for the Thai market.

Striking impact from vibrant colours was achieved with photographs of the biscuits overlaid on swirls which used different coloured gels and masks to differentiate each variety. Good shelf life was an important part of the brief says the Green House (64 High Street, Harrow-on-the-Hill, Middx HA1 3LL - tel: 081-422 6178, fax: 081-864 8370).

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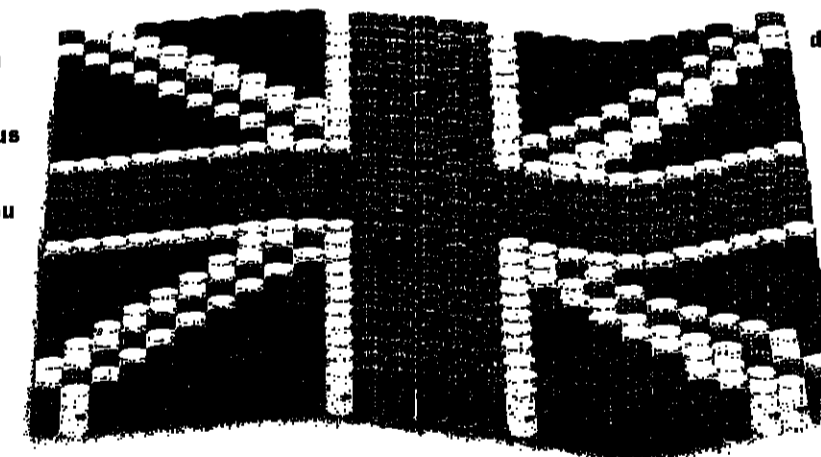
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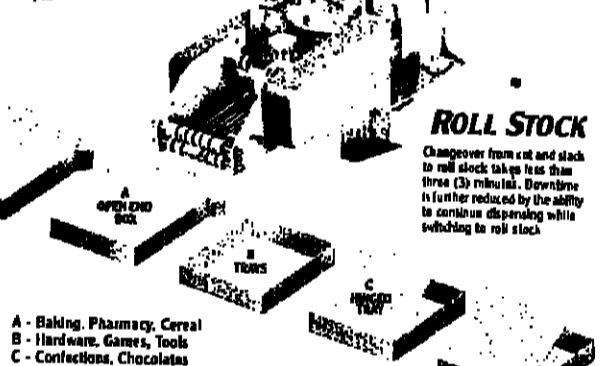
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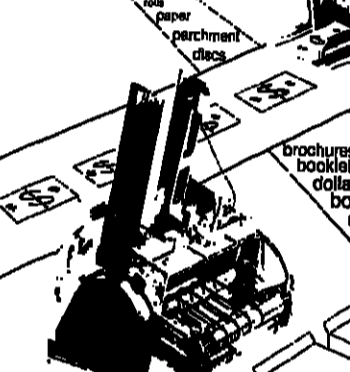
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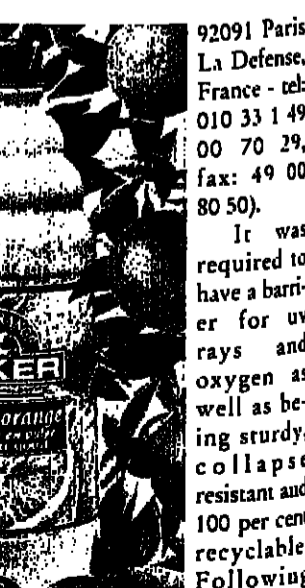
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Multiwall bottle meets stringent conditions for orange fruit juice

A multiwall bottle has been developed by French chemicals manufacturer, Elf Atochem, to meet the stringent conditions set by fruit juice manufacturer, Joker, for the launch of its Pulpea Orange fruit juice.

The Botox inert polymer container is made of an hdpe-based multilayer material from Elf (4, Cours Michelet La Defense 10, Cedex 42-



92091 Paris La Defense, France - tel: 010 33 1 49 00 70 29, fax: 49 00 80 50). It was required to have a barrier for uv rays and oxygen as well as being sturdy, collapse resistant and 100 per cent recyclable. Following two years of development Joker decided on the Botox bottle after a number of trials.

For further information K7 Call for details 0839 772268

The carton challenge

ACE, the Alliance for Beverage Cartons and the Environment has only two goals - to raise awareness of the environmental benefits of the beverage carton and to address related environmental issues.

Formed in 1990 as a non-profit making international coalition of 12 manufacturers of paperboard and beverage cartons, it has offices throughout Europe for its national associations and alliances with other federations worldwide.

A small group of competitors came together recognising the threat to their business through increasing environmental legislation, and realising they had a lot in common, they set up ACE.

The Alliance does not market the industry's products. Instead it provides a homogeneous view and aims to provide a quick and unified response to environmental matters as they affect it.

Money is pumped into research and projects in order to ensure the goal is achieved, which has the double end of practical projects to increase recycling, collection and sorting of waste and political lobbying on the European and national fronts.

This is all coordinated by ACE's director general, Lyn

Trytsman-Gray, at the Alliance's headquarters in Brussels. Ms Trytsman-Gray has many years of dealing both for the Government, consultancies and trade associations in Brussels and understands the machinery and machinations of Brussels's bureaucracies and foreign governments.

"Ensuring all the recovery options are available to member states"

The Alliance's current focus is on the Packaging Directive. "While the Alliance agrees with the Commission's objectives behind the proposal, the prime concern for the Alliance is to ensure that the Directive recognises that all packaging recovery options should be available to waste managers in the member states and that there is no discrimination between packaging systems," says Ms Trytsman-Gray.

There are two task forces. A project review board made up of seven or eight members companies, and the Recovery

Task Force, which comprises 20 people who thrash out technical matters.

Each year a number of projects are chosen to receive central as well as national funding. Some of 1993's projects include a plant a tree campaign involving 50,000 participants and the production of an environmental knowledge game in Denmark.

France, Germany, the Netherlands, Denmark and the UK all have market committees with a chairman. These decide which projects will get funding, discuss European Union (EU) policy and report to the Secretariat - Ms Trytsman-Gray and her two assistants. They then check that the committees are not duplicating efforts and pool resources.

In the UK during 1993, collection schemes were set up with local authorities, as well as a business link with the Celsia mill, where cartons are recycled into tissue paper.

"The UK is one of the hardest areas. It is more difficult to get markets for materials. There are not enough recyclers and processors," explains Mrs Trytsman-Gray.

"We are reluctant to go full steam ahead in the UK on collection since we don't just want to collect for the sake of it. In France they are keen and

Camilla Reed reports on how the Alliance of Beverage Cartons and the Environment (ACE) is facing up to the challenge of the EU packaging directive and the practical steps it is taking to further carton recycling and recovery.



Director general Lyn Trytsman-Gray coordinates the ACE effort

it's easier," she adds.

Most of the cartons recycled in Germany go to Strepp and are made into tissue paper, kitchen and toilet roll. "We look at increasing recycling, but we work out what is environmentally and economically viable."

At Strepp, in Germany last year around 51,600 tonnes of cartons were recycled, but the economic and environmental costs were high. "We only believe in setting targets where it makes sense," Mrs Trytsman-Gray tells PN.

"Every country is different. We are trying different means of collection to see to what extent the consumer will separate in flats, or houses in each country. We recognise that the system operating in Germany will not work in France. It really does depend on the consumer and sometimes it's quite frustrating."

In Finland one of this year's projects is to establish how many cartons are returned and how good this material is. ACE will publish some preliminary results on this shortly.

Other ongoing projects include investment in pyrolysis, to separate the varying elements of the beverage carton in order to facilitate recycling and an adventurous research programme with the Technical University of Lausanne to develop a semi-automatic sorting robot for used packaging.

"As selective collection, sorting and waste management systems used for packaging become more prevalent in Europe, there is a growing

"Using a robot can improve health and safety of workers"

The objectives of this project are to demonstrate the technical and financial feasibility of sorting used beverage cartons and demonstrate that using such a robot can improve health and safety conditions for workers.

Currently sorting is carried out manually, often in very noisy and dirty conditions. ACE hopes to convince the waste management companies to commercialise, buy and install the robots.

"This robot has the ability to sort from a virtually unlimited mix of materials such as cartons, plastic bottles, aluminium cans etc. However, at present only one fraction can be sorted at a time. A multi-fraction sorting system is planned for the next phase," says Ms Trytsman-Gray.

Average sorting speeds for

a robot are four times faster than manual sorting. The robot sorts up to two objects a second, while manually it averages one object every two seconds.

The most important task for the next phase is to develop artificial vision to increase the identification speed of packaging items to up to 10 objects a second.

Aside from the practical projects to aid collection, sorting and recycling, European environmental policy driven by the Packaging Directive is the Alliance's other focal point.

"The packaging Directive is a priority and most of our energy goes into this. The common position is reasonable - not ideal but a reasonable compromise. The sooner the Directive is resolved the better. However, there's a lot of detail and a lot to be worked out at national level. The problems we have had until now will be nothing compared to implementation."

ACE also produces a quarterly newsletter detailing the activities of its members worldwide as well as providing an update on EU and national environmental and packaging related legislation.

The Alliance for Beverage Cartons and the Environment, 36 rue Joseph II, Box 2, B-1040 Brussels, Belgium - tel: 02 219 0643, fax: 219 0223.

Banding machine keeps up with cigarette speeds

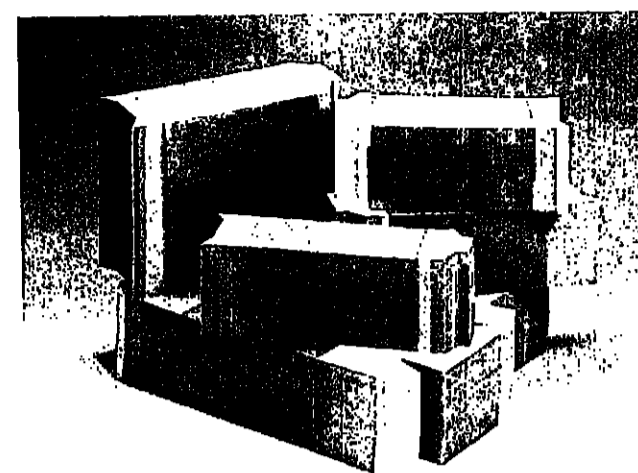
A banding machine which allows converters to supply cigarette cartons blanks to its customers in a way that matches the increasing speeds and automation of cigarette packing lines, has been developed by Jenton International Ltd.

Called the CB600, the principles employed in the design of this bander means that it can also find applications in other areas, such as the folding carton market, or be converted to provide a full wraparound option.

The loading of cigarette carton blanks has struggled to keep pace with the increasing automation of the rest of the line, says Jenton, and the increasing use of robotics by cigarette manufacturers has put more pressure on carton converters to help in this process.

Although the printing lines could produce the hinged lid carton blanks at high speeds, conventional band wrapping machines could not handle stacks of up to 600 blanks without damage, says Jenton (Pioneer House, St Mary Bourne, Andover, Hants - tel: 0264 738666, fax: 738552).

As well as overcoming these problems of banding stacks at speeds up to 25 a minute, the CB600 has also been designed



Various sizes of hinged carton blank can be handled on the CB600

to handle the potential difference in stack height, which can be up to around 12mm. The machine therefore measures each stack to allow for these height variations.

Led by Alan French, works manager at Jenton, the team first considered using a completely mechanical machine and then a combination of electric actuators and servo motors. These options could not deliver the speed and flexibility required at the right price, however and so pneumatic technology from Festo was chosen.

In operation, stacks of various sizes of carton blanks are

transferred into the banding position by a pneumatically operated pusher which adjusts automatically to the height of

the stack being banded. Each stack is sensed individually so that the machine can accept stacks of random heights providing the differential does not exceed 12mm.

Once accepted into the machine, a heat sealable, pe coated kraft paper is banded around the stack of carton blanks. The pe coating is on the outside allowing for heat sealing on the vertical face of the pack. After banding, the pack is transferred from the banding station by an intermittently driven conveyor belt.

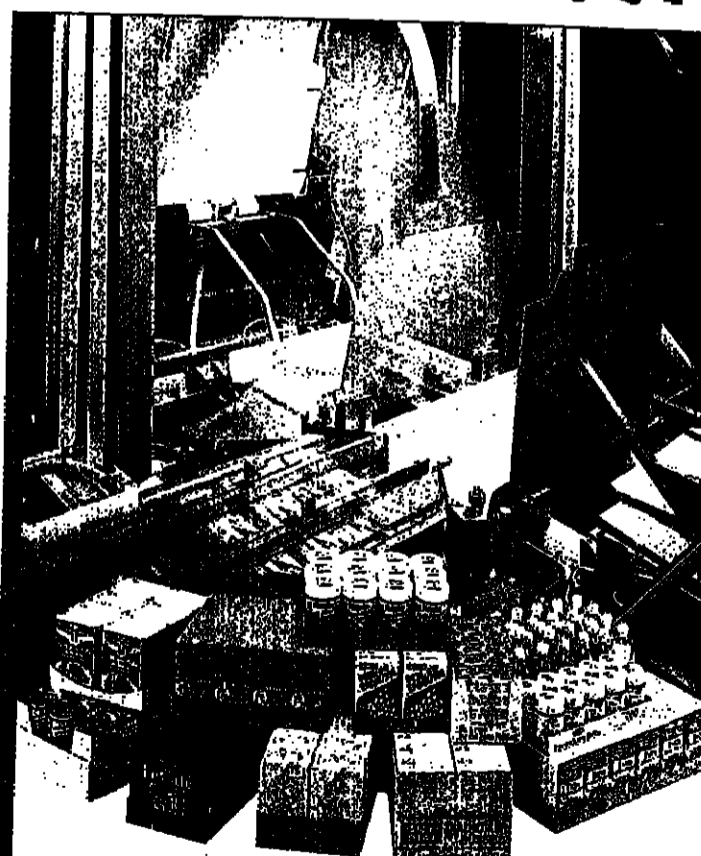
As well as providing a pack that can be handled easily at the loading stations of cigarette packing lines, other benefits include a saving of banding material. Flexibility is also provided as sealing the band with heat rather than glue, allow the position of the seal to be changed if required. The only physical adjustment needed is when the size of a pack changes.

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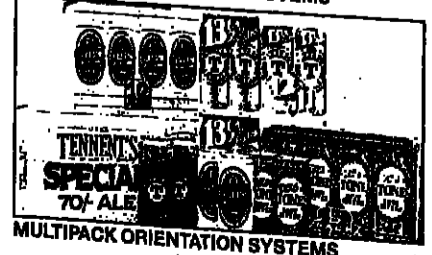


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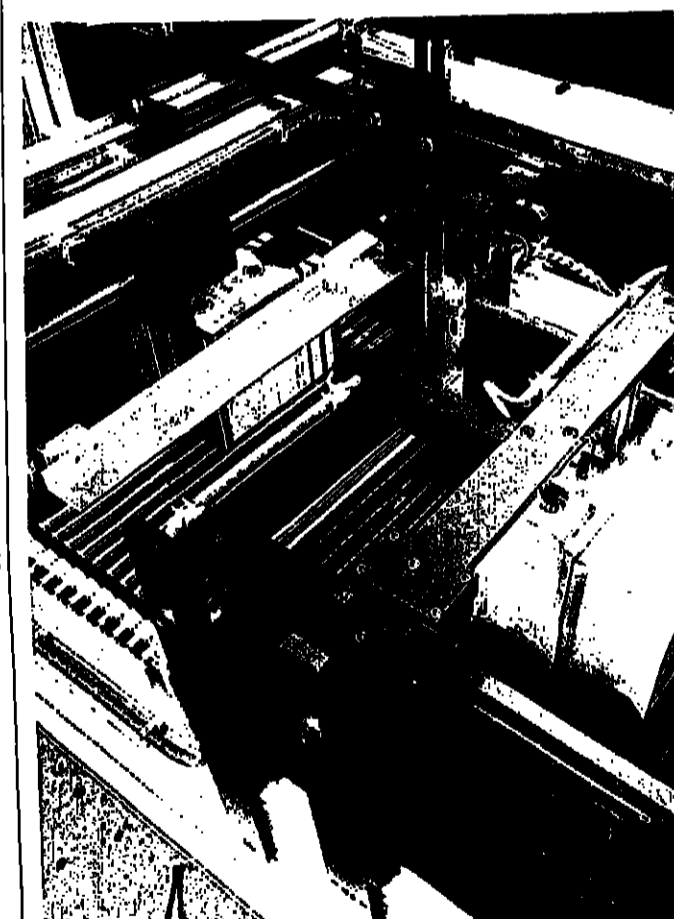


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The CB600 banding machine developed by Jenton International Ltd

Twistwrap speciality

Following our feature on speciality papers last month *Packaging News* would like to make it clear that Sappi Specialities (0865 516011) does not sell pre-waxed or converted speciality papers, but manufacture twisting papers for the confectionery and otc healthcare markets which are then printed and waxed by converters.

Two twisting grades are

available. A clay coated version called Unicot Twistwrap is used extensively for Pick and Mix toffee and sugar confectionery, while the uncoated Albus twistwrap, which can be flexo printed and waxed, is suitable for lozenge and tablet-shape bunchwrapping. *Packaging News* would like to apologise for any confusion that may have been caused.

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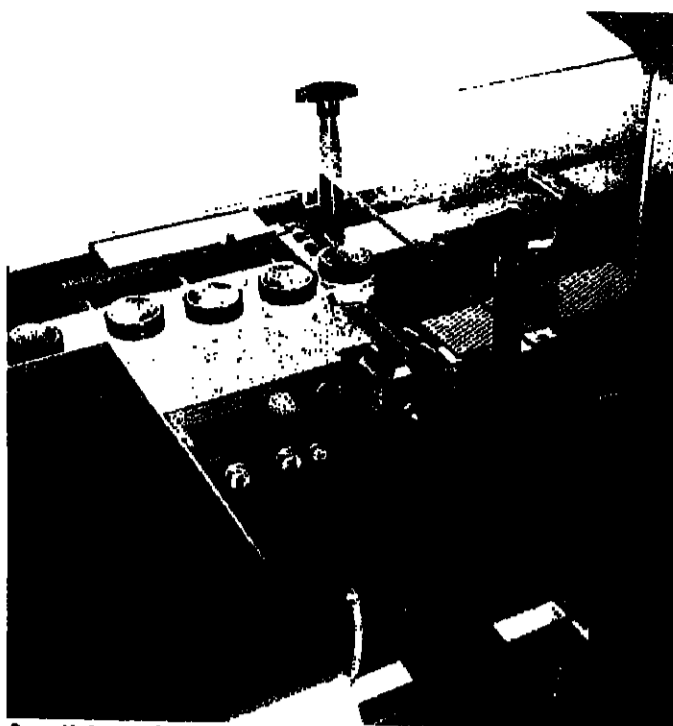


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Smooth pot moves



Smooth transmission: the Graseby Best D30 checkweigher

Toiletries producer Creighton's Naturally plc chose to install a Graseby Best D30 checkweigher because of its ability to maintain smooth transfer of pots down the production line.

The checkweigher is used to check 15ml pots of the Body Shop's Lip Balm, Eye Gel and Under Eye Cream which is fed into the pot through nozzles and after cooling and coding, is capped and labelled. To solve the problem of product emerging from the capping machine at an erratic pitch, an acceleration system slows the product down to create even spacing.

Pots are then checked by the D30 against weights varying between 30g and 40g, according to the specific gravi-

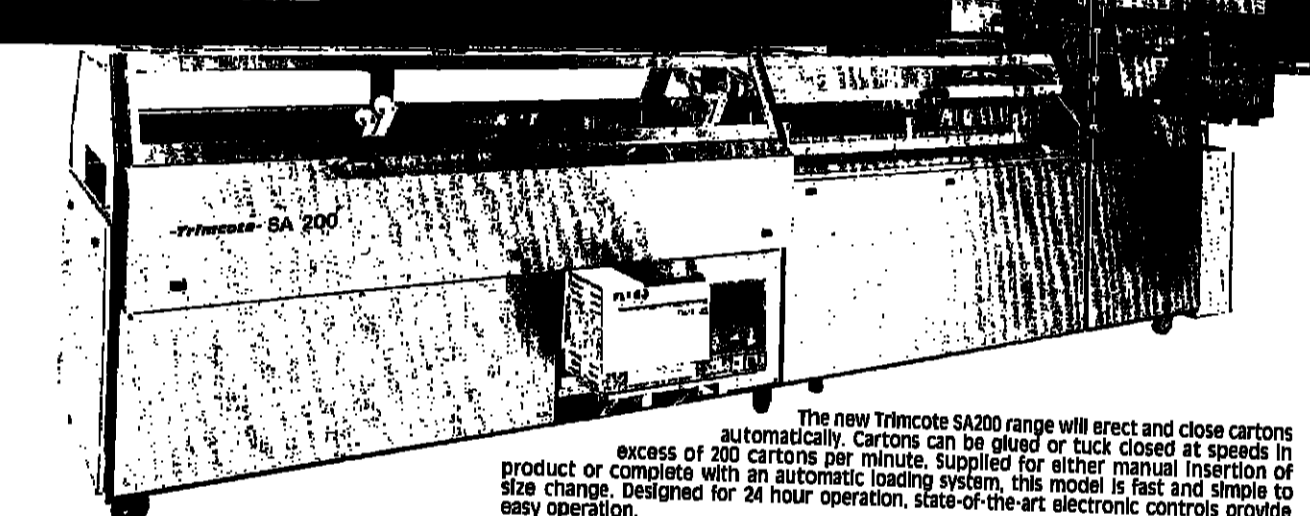
ty of the product. Those meeting the standard move on to be shrinkwrapped, while underweight pots are rejected.

The line handles some 40,000 pots each day, says Graseby Best (Little Forge Road, Park Farm North, Redditch, Wores B98 7SF - tel: 0527 517283, fax: 517284).

"The D30 is extremely reliable," says Peter Young, quality assurance manager for Creighton. "Although most of the time it is handling these very small pots, we can, using the preprogrammed library pages in the D30's memory, prepare the line to handle packs weighing up to 1kg, very quickly."

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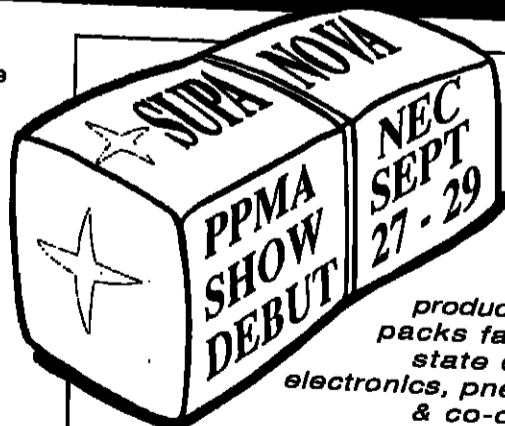
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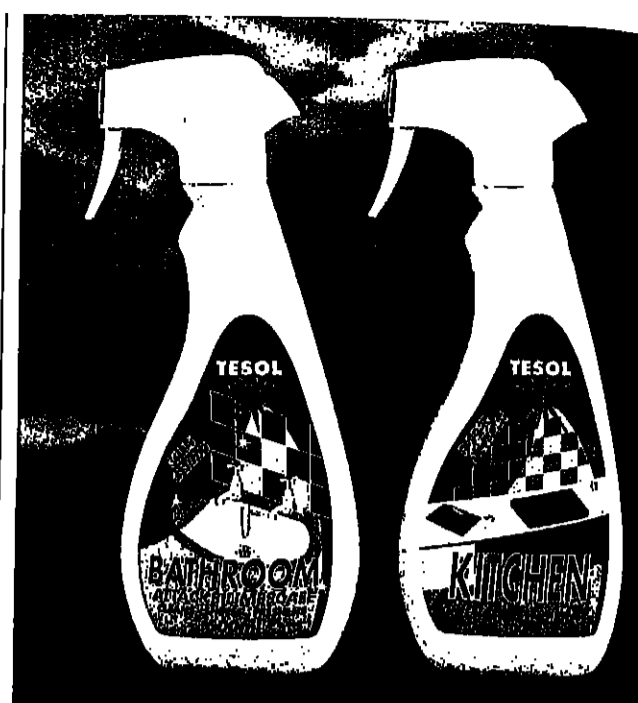


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Guala spa standard trigger spray: for Tesol: one of six in the range

Snap on trigger for cleaner range

Techsol Ltd is the first UK user of Guala spa's standard trigger spray - adopted for the Tesol brand of bathroom and kitchen cleaning products - which is currently on sale in most Safeway stores.

The trigger spray is a snap on design, which led to bottle supplier, Scanbech Ltd (tel: 0928 561747) changing the neck thread on its 500ml container. This standard trigger is just one of six in the Guala range.

While the shroud remains the same, various inserts can be supplied to give differing per-

formances. Two multi purpose inserts can be supplied, one for viscous and one for milder cleaning products while the latest in the range, is a foamer for carpet cleaners. Another recent addition is a fine atomiser insert which is suitable for such products as air fresheners or insecticides.

Further information is available from the dispensing division of Guala spa (Laystall, Cross Hayes, Malmesbury, Wilts SN16 9BE - tel: 0666 824390, fax: 747184).

For further information call 0839 772268 or enquiry number K7-414

Company sails to Aylesford

The central office of SCA Packaging Ltd has moved from Packet Boat House, Cowley to the SCA site in Aylesford, Kent.

The new address is: SCA Packaging Ltd, New Hythe House, Aylesford, Kent ME20 7PB - tel: 0622 883285, fax: 716308.

883290. The company's central sales and marketing functions are also moving to Aylesford, and the Market Development Group can be contacted at: European Technical Centre, Aylesford, Kent ME20 7TW - tel: 0662 883284, fax: 716308.

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The British Printing Company Ltd (BPC) is delaying its flotation on the stock market due to market volatility and the general downward movement in the stock market since the announcement, says the company. It is now unlikely that BPC will seek a listing before the end of the year.

Grosvenor Venture Managers Limited has provided all of the £2 million institutional equity finance for the management buy-out of Walsall-based Castle Packaging Ltd from its parent company. Castle is a distributor/stockholder of gummed paper tape, dispensers and allied packaging products.

Norcor plc, the branded building materials and specialist print and packaging group, announced an increase of 7.4 per cent in sales to £378 million for the year ended 31 March, 1994. Earnings per share (eps) were 6.6p over a restated loss of 2.4p in 1993. Gearing was reduced to 39.5 per cent from 94.8 per cent after £19.4 million of property disposals and a rights issues in June 1993. There was also a substantial improvement in profit before tax to £17.1 million against a restated profit of £2.6 million for 1993.

Core packaging operations continue to be the most significant part of John Waddington plc, accounting for 86 per cent of turnover and 67 per cent of operating profit for the year ended 2 April 1994. This division of Waddingtons reported a 22 per cent increase in sales to £145.8 million with profit growth of 13 per cent to £14.4 million. Waddingtons says it is pleased to see a higher rate of growth in packaging profits in the second half, an increase of 10 per cent over the first half.

Brattle Adhesive Materials Ltd has been appointed sole distributor in the UK of Sealking's Polypeel resealable adhesive tape (0525 382233).

MY Holdings, the paper and plastic packaging group, has acquired the businesses and assets of Cleanprint and Jense Packaging, suppliers to the healthcare sector at a cost of £1.6 million.

Papeterie Ltd, the UK stationery products firm, has acquired the sole distribution rights in the UK to the HQ range of Thai paper and packaging products.

Following a closing audit conducted by the Cardiff Institute of Higher Education and completion of a stringent upgrading programme, Field Packaging Newcastle has recently been accredited by the Royal Society of Health and registered under its hygiene scheme for the food packaging industry.

Under an agreement with Sumitomo Heavy Industries of Tokyo, flame plasma surface treatment systems from the Aerogen Company of Alton will be incorporated into plastics extrusion coating/laminat-



Aerogen's high speed flame plasma treatment system for webs

ing lines manufactured by the Japanese company. In addition, Sumitomo will market Aerogen equipment direct to converters in the Far East.

James Howden & Company has purchased the technology and a number of the assets of Geste Industrial Ltd. A new division of James Howden, Howden Packaging Equipment (Scotland), will transfer production of Geste's bottling line equipment from Stirling to premises in Renfrew (041-886 6711).

Cascades Djupafors Ltd has been set up in cooperation with Ekman Cleave Group (081-668 4141) which will act as the Swedish paper and board mill, Cascades Djupafors AB's, UK agent.

Alusuisse-Lonza Holding Ltd announces that following the acquisition of Lawson Mardon Group its packaging division is now called Lawson Mardon Packaging (0272 484200).

Amalgamated Packaging, part of the Remploy Packaging Group, has recently signed a second partnership sourcing agreement worth in excess of £700,000 a year with NSK-RHP, the ball and roller bearing manufacturer.

The value of mergers, acquisitions and flotation transactions in the packaging sector trebled in the year 1992/93, according to a report by Price Waterhouse Corporate Finance (071-039 5663). The transactions were worth £1.5 billion on 50 deals. In the previous year, £877 million was raised. For 1994 the number of buy-outs has already exceeded the total for the whole of 1993.

Filmflex Machinery Ltd (0226 6730123), has been appointed the UK agent for the Maier range of winding systems for blown film and the orbital winder from converter M+M.

Assidom AB's board of directors has decided to concentrate the production of corrugated board in Germany and Switzerland at only three sites. This will result in production being discontinued at Karlsruhe and expanded at Hildon and Basel. However, sales and product development will continue at Karlsruhe.

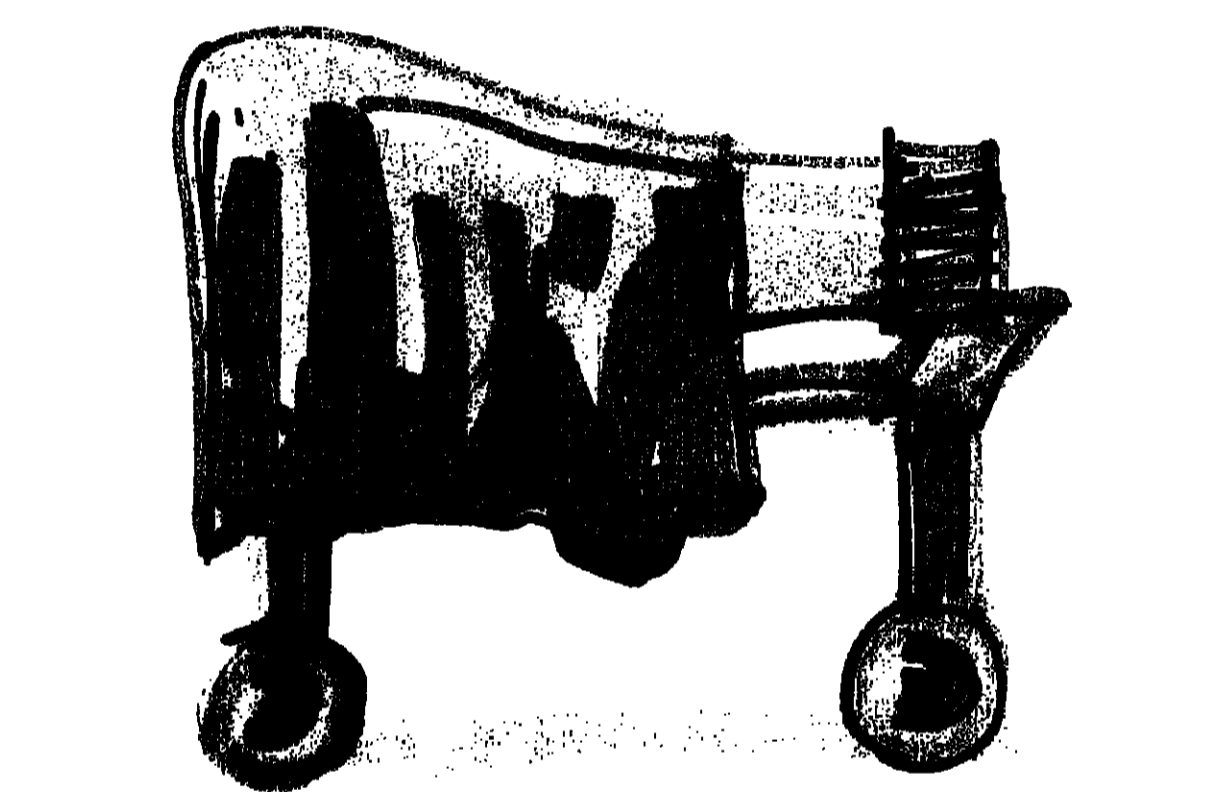
Elf Atochem and Union Carbide plan to go into partnership in the specialty polyethylene's field, using technology known as the linear

process with particular emphasis in the wire and cable markets. It is projected that the 50/50 association will be finalised by the end of the year.

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PLASTICS SET A SIXTIES TREND

Experiments with plastics - some of which survived, but many didn't - for packing all sorts of products led one enthusiast in 1964 to predict that by the 1990s nearly all food packaging would be in flexible films. Paul Gander finds out why.

Back in January 1964, the enterprising company Maurice James was marketing coal in kraft sacks with an artistic logo spelling out "Trend". Some things are just difficult to predict.

There was more of a trend around with plastics, which were moving into new areas, some of which they stayed in and some, such as the cigarette cartons highlighted last month, they didn't.

Cheese went into pvc blister packs with lids of the same material replacing waxed paper cups with ps lids for Ilchester Cheese with Beer. PN identified this as a "trend setting use of plastics", though that particular flavour of cheese appears to have gone the same way as coal a long time before it.

Another plastics replacement for waxed board came in '65 with Ski Yogurt's move into churn-shaped ps pots. A combination injection and blow moulding process was used by the converter to achieve the same shape as the paper-board pack it replaced.

Lever Brothers launched Vim scouring powder in an hdpe bottle with pouring holes in the pe lid. It was the first scouring powder in plastics but, we were assured, Ajax was not far behind. The pack replaced the traditional metal-ended board canister. Although housewives were reported as preferring the plastics jar, the change involved a 2d increase in price, passed on to the consumer, for each pack.

But this growth in applications for plastics was leading some in the industry to rather oversimplified predictions in the longer term. Mr Selby of the British Food Manufacturing Industries Research Association prophesied that "within the next 26 years flexible film packaging will supersede all other forms of food packaging for retail purposes."

Among the product shown wrapped in film in the February '64 issue was Galbraith's Silver Strand tea, which used coated cellulose film and,

in March, tobacco from the Imperial Tobacco Company finsealed in cellulose film laminated with aluminium foil. More complex laminates included an aluminium/paper/Pliofilm rubber hydrochloride combination shown in the April issue used in pouches for Bisk Slimasoups.

The one-trip glass bottle for soft drinks was on its way, with marketing trials running over the summer of '64 for Pepsi Cola and Rose sparkling

lime supplied in elongated lightweight bottles. Other advances on the glass front included the use of square-shouldered bottles for Anderton's sherry, rum, whisky and port.

There were also, Mr Selby might have noticed, shifts from plastics films to glass - not always the opposite. Silvikrin's manufacturer Beecham carried out a customer survey which showed that customers preferred a glass minibottle to a sachet.

Even the most basic assumptions were being

questioned. Does whisky really need to be packed in a glass bottle? Not necessarily, decided Bardro, why not put it in a plastics aerosol? In this way Scotch Mist became "the first hard liquor in the world to be marketed in aerosol form". Maybe Bardro saw this, too, as the beginning of a trend.

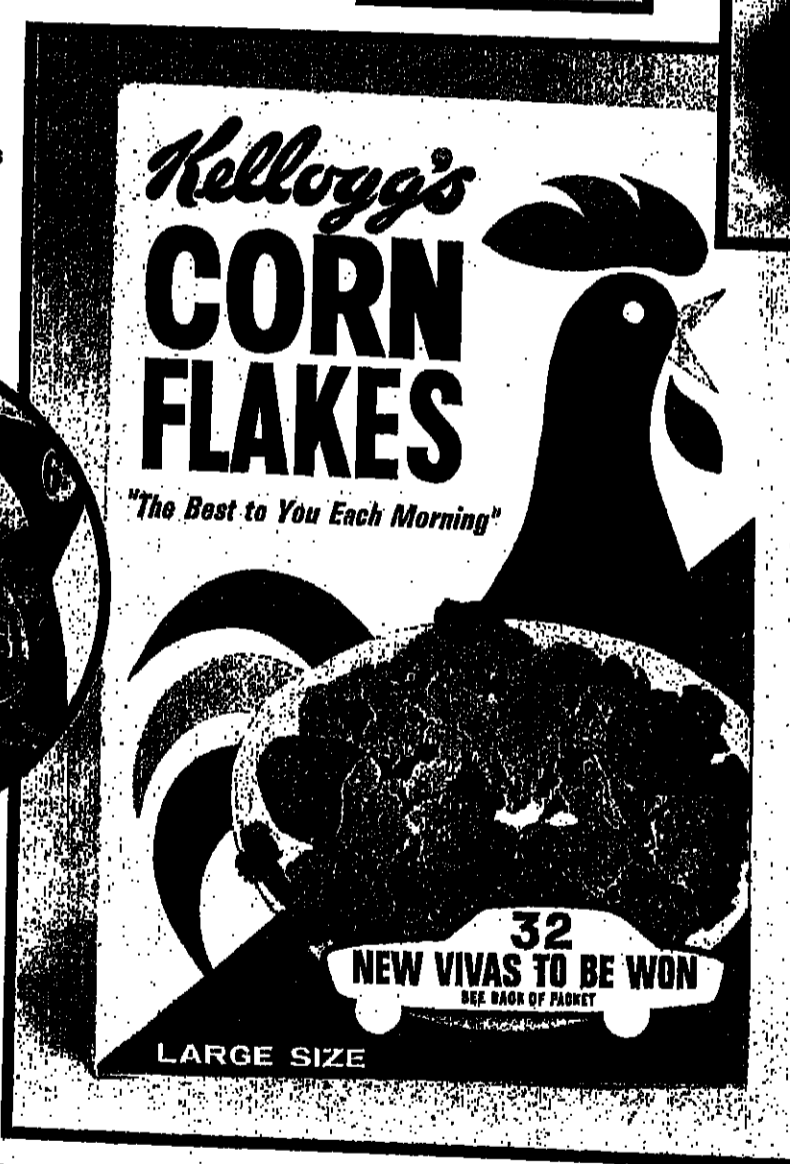
There were other interesting results from customer research carried out in the US which showed that 40 per cent of respondents saw the ring pull on beverage cans as a disadvantage, 21 thought it was not an advantage and 39 per cent saw it as an advantage. Criticisms included the difficulty of removing the ring pull after levering it up and the unpleasantness or even danger of drinking out of it afterwards.

So-called "pull-tab" cans reached the UK in October '64, when consumers were able to try out the pack - used for Ind Coope's Long Life

LEFT: HOUSEWIVES WERE SAID TO PREFER VIM IN A PLASTICS CONTAINER



RIGHT: KELLOGG'S LAUNCHED ITS CORNFLAKES WITH ITS FAMILIAR COCKEREL LOGO



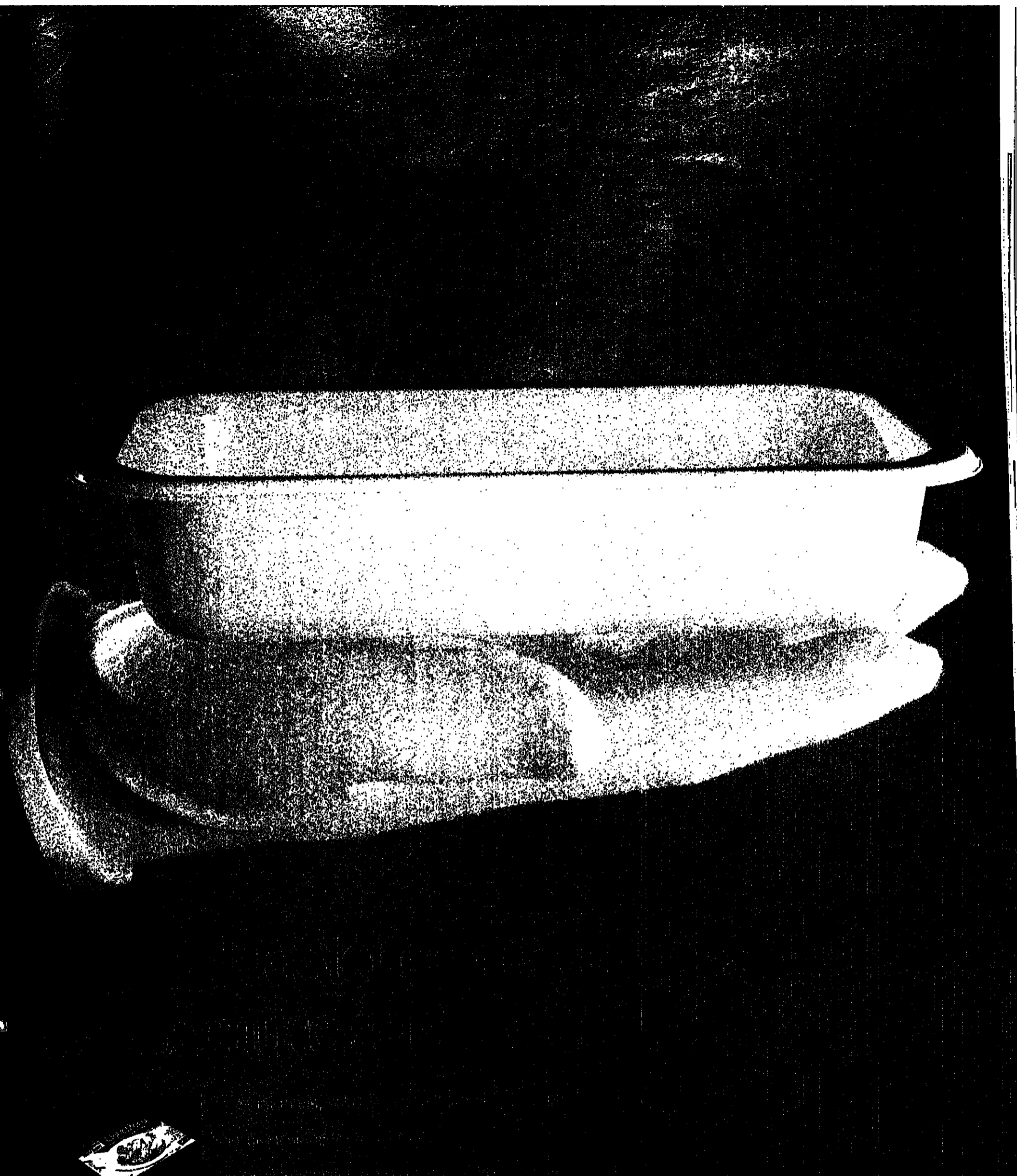
ABOVE: SKI YOGURT MOVED ITS CHURN-SHAPED POTS FROM WAXED PAPER INTO PS

beer - for themselves. An estimated three-quarters of all beer cans in the US already had ring pull tops. Called the Pop Top, the closure offered an "element of convenience that will be especially acceptable at parties and picnics, and when sailing or caravanning," said Ind Coope.

Paper and board were not lagging behind in innovation, with an easily erected carton which arranged eggs in a single line, offering good transit protection and visibility, wrote PN in February '64. The Boneg carton was printed, cut and creased on a Chambon machine (presumably an all-singing, all-dancing model) called the Rock 'n' Roll.

Cartoning was also developing new systems - many of them coming out of the UK - with concepts, said PN, never before applied to the construction of cartons.

PACKAGING PICTURES KINDLY LOANED FROM THE ROBERT OPIE COLLECTION AT THE MUSEUM OF ADVERTISING AND PACKAGING, GLOUCE - TEL: 0452 302309



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The Chemistry of New Ideas

The key to child resistant closures

Three prototype versions of a child resistant closure, which is said to offer an easier version for consumers to open as well as providing tamper evidence, are now available from Just Once (Closures) Ltd.

Easy opening is offered due to the alternative method

of opening incorporated, says the company. Gone is the need to grip, push and turn, as a special key is used instead. This key is inserted into a receiving recess in the inner cap which allows the engaging threads to be turned without depressing the outer part of the closure.

Samples of these prototypes, which fit three neck finishes - 28mm R3, 28mm R6 and 24mm R3 - are available from the company (which is based at Harleem House, Ogilvie Road, High Wycombe, Bucks HP12 3DS - tel: 0494 463111, fax: 461194).

Using different wads, the cap can be used for dispensing tablets and liquid mixtures as well as a range of household and garden products.

For further information K7 107 Call for details 0839 772268

Brochure presents sealing alternatives

Easy-Open Packaging from DuPont is a new brochure presenting the company's product range for the manufacture of packs which provide the right balance between proper sealing and a seal that is designed to be peeled off easily by the consumer.

According to DuPont, it has the most comprehensive offering of peelable sealing alternatives available. Polymer solutions which allow easy open formats to be adopted are available for all packaging designs, from portion packs to



oven ready meals, says the company (which can be contacted at Packaging & Industrial Polymers, Maylands Avenue, Hendon, Herts HP2 7DP - tel: 0442 218541, fax: 249463).

DuPont recently won the Packaging Innovator of the Year with Kramer & Grebe, for an easy open, multilayer pack for sliced food products such as meat and cheese. This pack also allows for reclosure after partial consumption of the contents.

For further information K7 106 Call for details 0839 772268

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try number K7-421

OPENABILITY NEWS



Elopak screw-cap cartons: easy to open, pour from and reseal

Screw improvements

Improved opening, pouring, resealing and storage of liquids are said to be provided by a new generation of screw-cap cartons from Elopak Ltd.

Ideal for fruit juices, mineral water, soups, sauces, milk and drinking yoghurts, the screw-cap cartons incorporate a specially designed device which highlights any evidence of tampering.

The screw-cap is very easy to open - especially useful for the very young and very old - and its complete resealability eliminates leakage in the fridge, whether the carton is standing up or on its side, says the company (Rutherford Close, Meadway, Stevenage, Herts SG1 2PR - tel: 0438 746746, fax: 741324).

A range of standard family sized cartons are offered by the

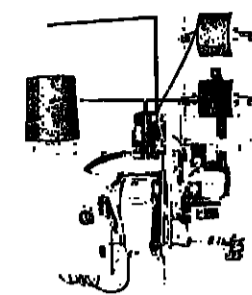
Following our report last month on the IOP's Easy Open symposium, Gail Lea highlights some developments in machinery and materials which are designed to make the opening of various packs much easier.

company - from 2 litres down to 250ml - and a new brochure is now available on the screw cap versions.

For further information K7 106 Call for details 0839 772268

Tapes pull apart for easy opening bags

An easy open system for handled or plain sewn bags for products such as pet food, cat



The easy open tape system

litter and charcoal, has been developed by Fischbein.

In operation, two strips of Twotape are sewn along the bag to form the closure. To open the bag, these tapes are simply pulled apart and the thread is removed to give a full opening. If a pour spout is required, this thread can be just partially opened.

"Heavy duty kraft paper"

The system and the Twotape are both available from Fishbein (Unit E4, Northway Trading Estate, Tewkesbury, Gloucs GL20 8JH - tel: 0684

OPENABILITY NEWS



Twotape strips form the closure

298182, fax: 292678). The Twotape is a 10mm wide, heavy duty kraft paper and is available in a variety of colours to complement the artwork on the bag itself, according to the company.

For further information K7 109 Call for details 0839 772268

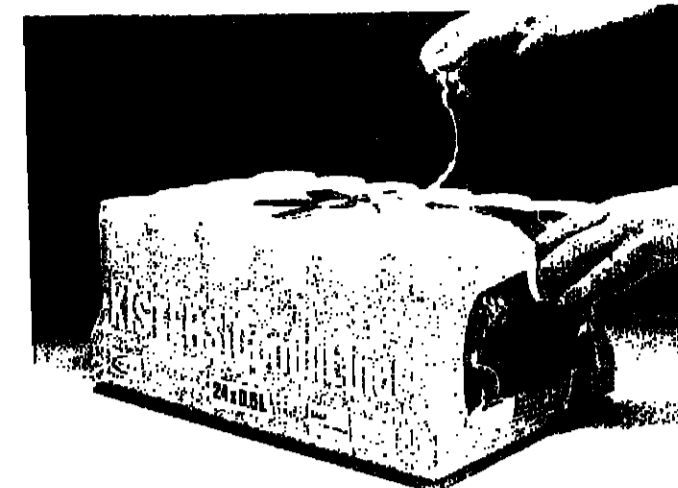
Thread avoids knife damage

A simple method for opening shrinkwrapped packs for both the retailer and the consumer, has been developed by Kisters Ltd.

A tear thread can now be integrated into the shrinkfilm by means of a separate machine before the shrinkwrapping operation, which is said by the company to allow for quick and effortless opening.

This subsequent wrapping process can take place on a Kisters ShrinkPacker and the tear thread can be either transparent or coloured. This Easy-Open system has been designed for either transit packs or printed film multipacks. For example, on 24-can packs of lager cans or on 6 packs of 33cl beverage cans.

The system gets over



A tear thread is integrated into the film before shrinkwrapping

problems of using a knife to open packs which brings danger of cuts or of damaging the products, says the company (37 Walkers Road, North

Moors, Moat, Redditch, Worcs B98 9HD - tel: 0527 595795, fax: 595727).

For further information K7 110 Call for details 0839 772268

Plastics gadget releases vacuum on glass jars

What is described as a simple, yet revolutionary gadget for opening glass jars was handed out to all delegates at the IOP's Easy Open symposium.

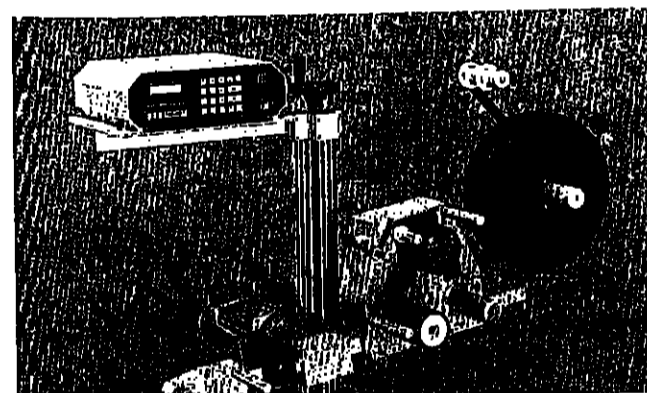
Called JarKey, the plastics gadget was designed and launched in Denmark last year, where sales have already exceeded one in five house-

holds. It works by releasing the vacuum which keeps jars sealed, and its effectiveness has been tested with cap manufacturer, CarnaudMetalbox Closures. Distributed by Sterling Marketing, JarKeys are now available in selected supermarkets, says CarnaudMetalbox Closures.

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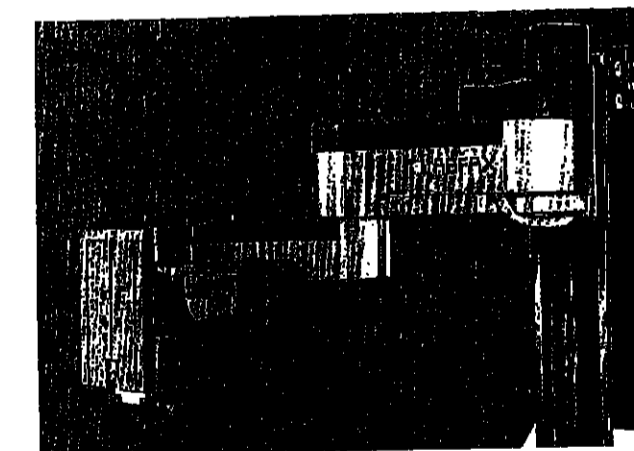
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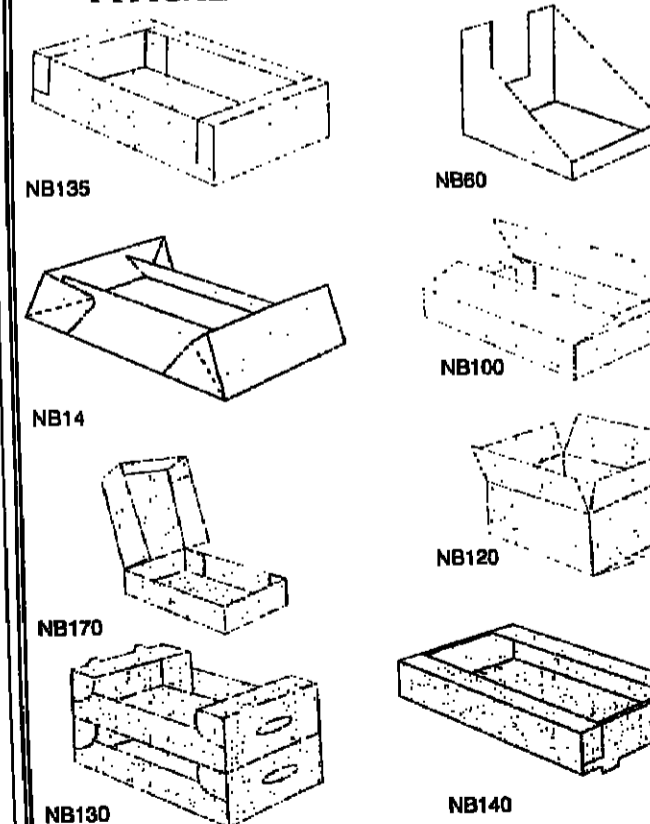
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Belgium quibbles over EU directive

The European Union's (EU) Packaging Directive grinds slowly on with adoption expected for the end of June or beginning of July. Further delay has been caused by Belgian intransigence, as the country struggles to overcome problems with the ambiguous wording of 'economic instruments' in Article 15.

At the Council of Ministers meeting in June, UK and Spanish opposition to the wording of Article 15 on economic instruments was swiftly resolved (see PN June).

In order to prevent the directive going to conciliation,



which may result in MEPs reintroducing targets, it has been sent back to the Council of Permanent Representatives to iron out what is hoped is the last problem. Failure to resolve the Belgian position would result in the conciliation process, something the Ministers aim to avert at all costs.

Recycling logo on closures

A 'recyclable steel' logo has been included into the design of CPC's metal closures on its Real Mayonnaise and Light Mayonnaise products.

CPC is the first UK food manufacturer to incorporate the logo on closures supplied

by CarnaudMetalbox Closures Europe (Lake Road, Hamworthy, Poole, Dorset BH15 4LJ - tel: 0202 674321, fax: 676963).

It aims to promote proactive consumer recycling of metal and other products, encouraging customers to deposit the caps in can banks.

CarnaudMetalbox Closures says it aims to encourage retailers to promote recycling by the use of point of sale material and persuade manufacturers to incorporate the logo on their caps.

For further information 137 Call for details 0839 772288

Brussels sources indicated that once the Belgian opposition is overcome the directive can be adopted at any Council of Ministers' meeting with just a nod. There are a number of these scheduled throughout June and July.

Last minute negotiations are currently being held so that the directive can be approved before the end of the Greek presidency.

The Department of Environment along with trade associations tell PN that they want the directive to be adopted as quickly as possible.

However, some MEPs seem confident that there has been a shift at Council level with the Belgians prepared to side with the Germans and Danes. They have never accepted the directive as it stands (see PN January).

German Ordinance: the cost

The average cost to a four person German household may have been more than DM1300 (\$540) in 1993 rising to DM1600 (\$660) this year, as a result of the DSD, says Perchard consultants. So far the promised savings have not materialised and levies from the DSD on fillers and packers have escalated concludes the consultancy.

As Austria and France both cope with adapted versions of the German Duales System, Perchards has written a report on the situation to date in Germany and what benefits and drawbacks are apparent from the German Packaging Ordinance.

The Ordinance has met the German Government's politi-

cal objective of bringing about a complete transformation in trade and industry's attitude to packaging waste management as packaging legislation is springing up all over Europe either inspired by the German example or as a defensive measure against it, David Perchard tells *Packaging News*.



However, the German system collects much more material than the market can absorb, is far more expensive than it need be and is distorting competition and undermining the development of collection systems in other countries, says Perchard (Drover House, 16 Adelaide Street, St Albans AL3 5BH - tel: 0727 843227, fax: 843193).

Most of the problems stem from the fact that the German law is far too prescriptive. In addition, the law's refusal to allow incineration as a way of disposing of surpluses which can not find an end use market has created havoc.

When the law was adopted, Germany was already recycling about 5 million tonnes of packaging each year and about

10 million tonnes were entering the waste stream.

Compliance with the collection and sorting targets would reduce waste to an annual 8.5 million tonnes in the first stage and to 5 million tonnes after mid 1995. Used packaging would then represent just 3 per cent of total waste arisings compared with 6 per cent in 1991.

There have been some winners. The Ordinance has created a series of managed markets dominated by particular companies. German papermakers have improved their competitiveness and German beverage producers are also benefiting. Other groups, such as the stronger waste management companies have also done very well.

Perchard concludes that the main lessons from the German experience are that recycling should be part of a range of waste reduction measures, but that companies should be free to choose when they put the emphasis.

Since the secondary raw materials market is an international one, no single jurisdiction can or should control it, so the pace at which collection schemes are developed should have a regard for supply and demand on a much broader scale.

For further information 137 Call for details 0839 772288



Pointing out that metal caps can be recycled: Hellmann's Real Mayonnaise capped by CarnaudMetalbox Closures Europe

Recycling plant for post consumer plastics waste

Linpac Plastics International has opened a second recycling plant for post consumer plastics waste at Allerton Bywater in West Yorkshire.

Only separating and washing facilities will remain at the Bollington plant, where all rigid plastics waste will be sent for washing and separation prior to reprocessing at Allerton Bywater.

The combined capacity at both plants is expected to be around 4-5000 tonnes a year roughly the size of the rigid plastics recycling market.

"Calling for support from industry"

Although until now Linpac has only been breaking even at Bollington, the decision to expand was one of economies of scale, Alan Davey recycling projects manager at Linpac (Avon Business Park, Knottingley, West Yorkshire WS11 0BS - tel: 0977 671111, fax: 670670) tells *Packaging News*.

"The business does not

stand alone at present but we expect to make a profit by the second half of this year."

However, Mr Davey calls for more support from industry and a real commitment to recycling right along the packaging chain.

At present, the recycled product is sold at a premium, but with increasing volumes Linpac expects this to disappear. "People seem to expect that there should be reprocessing plants all over the country yet we have done costings and it is more economic to transport all the waste to one plant."

Any further expansion will depend on the enforcement of environmental legislation and on the financial stability of the market. This may well not hold up with the proposed opening of Plysu's reprocessing facility later in the year, explains Mr Davey.

Two extrusion lines have been installed at the Allerton Bywater site. One at a cost of £250,000 and the other together with granulators, ballistic classification and drying equipment from Bollington.

For further information 137 Call for details 0839 772288

Wombles promote steel can scheme

Scrib, the Steel Can Recycling Information Bureau (071-379 1306), has joined forces with the Wombles to promote to the public the benefits of recycling steel cans.

Scrib and the Wombles will be touring the country during the summer and doing a specially choreographed dance called Do the Steel Can Crush.

They aim to promote British Steel's save a can scheme and the fact that by crushing the cans before putting them in the bins, people can help the system to run more smoothly.

Scrib and the Wombles will be touring the country during the summer and doing a specially choreographed dance called Do the Steel Can Crush.



Bag-in-box aids chemical disposal

Swan Fields Packaging has introduced a packaging system to assist in the disposal of chemicals. It uses the bag-in-box system more commonly used for wine. Swan says the system will mean an end to major disposal headaches for chemicals users.

"There is a saving over other forms of packaging, and there is also the ability to release the chemicals through the tap and turn it off," John Smith, sales and marketing director at Swan's tells PN.

The packaging has been

designed for a West Midlands' chemical manufacturer and operates on two levels. The chemicals are stored in a strong inner bag with a dispenser housed in a rigid heavy duty recycled card outer box.

They come in a variety of sizes, 2x2 litre, 4x1 and 3x1 litres and are filled by the chemical manufacturer. Also under development is a larger special returns box so that once the chemicals have been used, the inner bag is placed in the returns box containing an inner liner and the box can

now be recycled. In the case of Swan's customer, the return box is collected by the customer and disposed of safely. The chemical end user no longer has to worry about arranging disposal of the packaging.

Although a number of companies recondition drums, more often plastic or steel drum containers when empty are crushed and landfilled and the onus is on the end user to dispose of the container.

For further information 137 Call for details 0839 772288

BRIEFLY

MSK CONVERTER has developed a device known as Rototech which overcomes the problem of what to do with used polythene, paper and cardboard by compressing and bundling the material into bales of 600mm by 400mm. It employs a screw-type press which guarantees winding and compression of the material. Any length or width of paper or cardboard material can be processed to produce a bale width of up to 390kg (0509 284339).

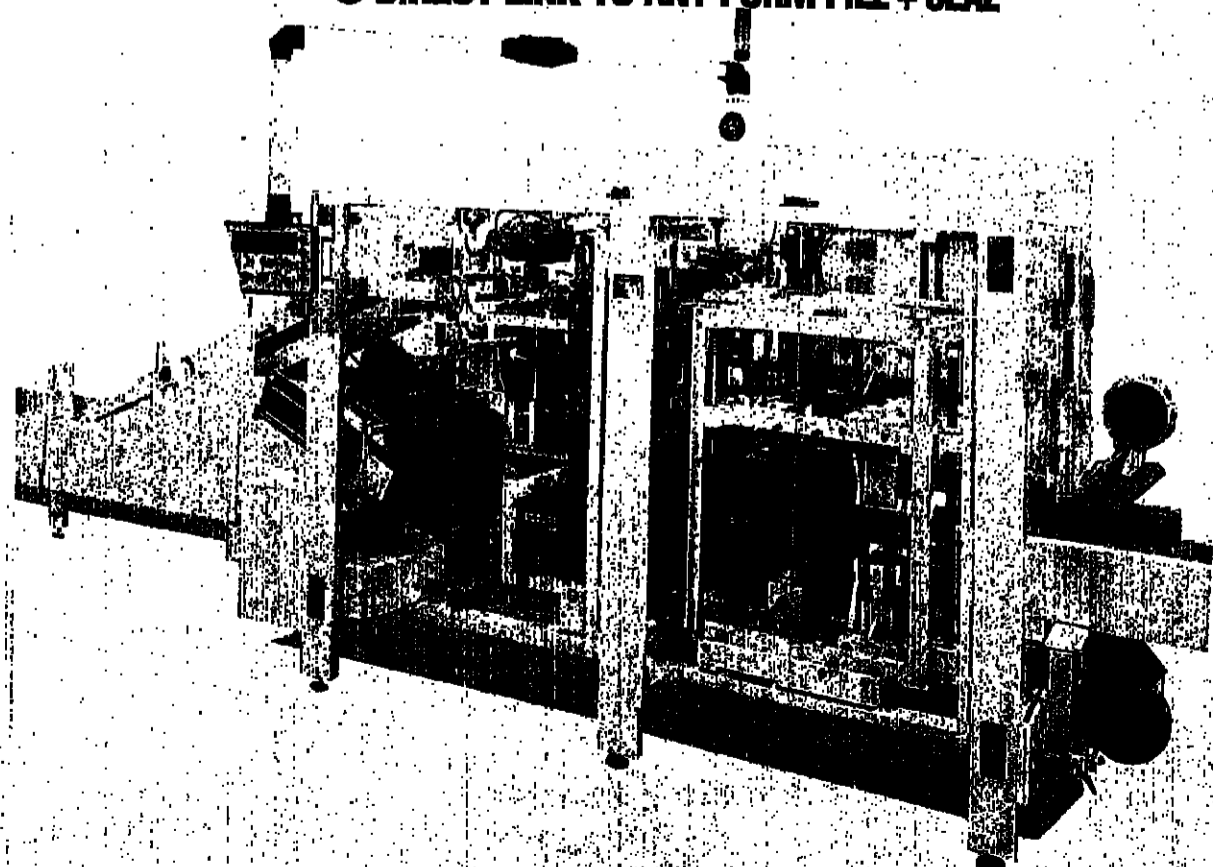
THE RING LEADER recycling scheme, for the collection and recycling of Hi-Cone carrier plastic rings found on multi-packs beverage cans, has been set up in the South West. The scheme, launched by ITW Hi-Cone in association with Safeway Stores plc and Dow Chemical Company Ltd, is being promoted in the area with the assistance of county councils and local authorities.

THE ALUMINUM CANS Recycling Association (ACRA) has announced that 21 per cent of UK consumed aluminium cans were recycled in 1993, up on 18 per cent for 1992. It represents 1.158 billion aluminium cans recycled out of 5.5 billion sold in the UK, and resulted in an estimated 19,000 tonnes of used beverage cans being recycled into new drinks cans and other products.

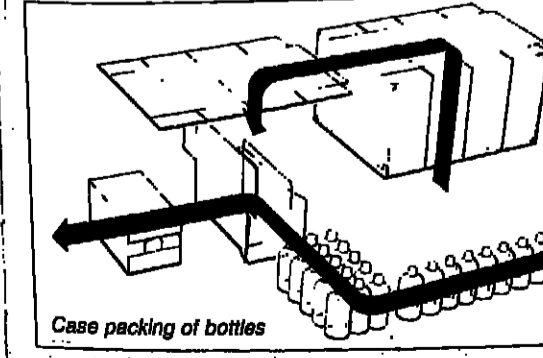
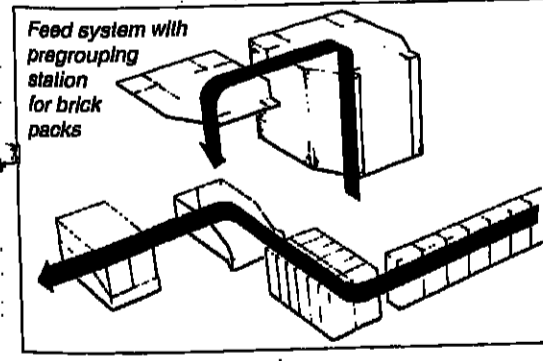
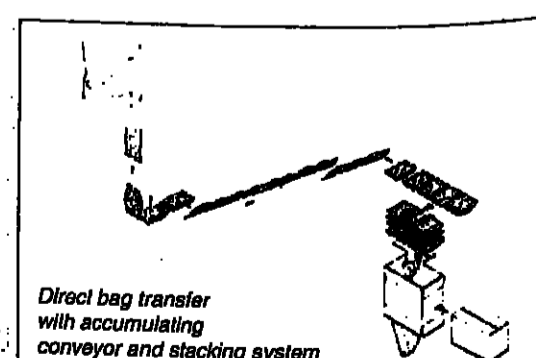
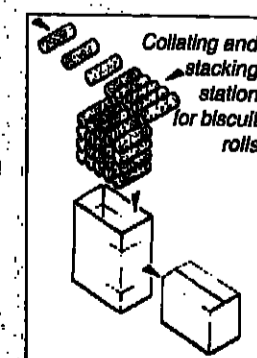
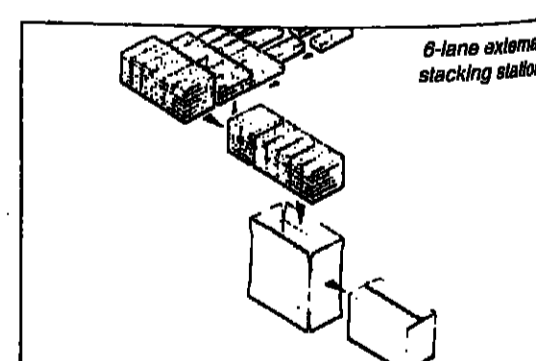
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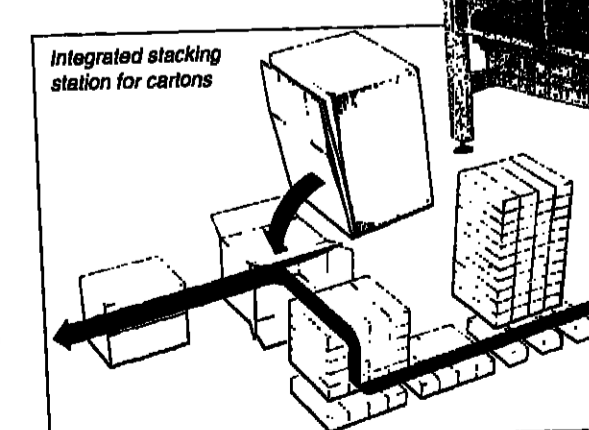
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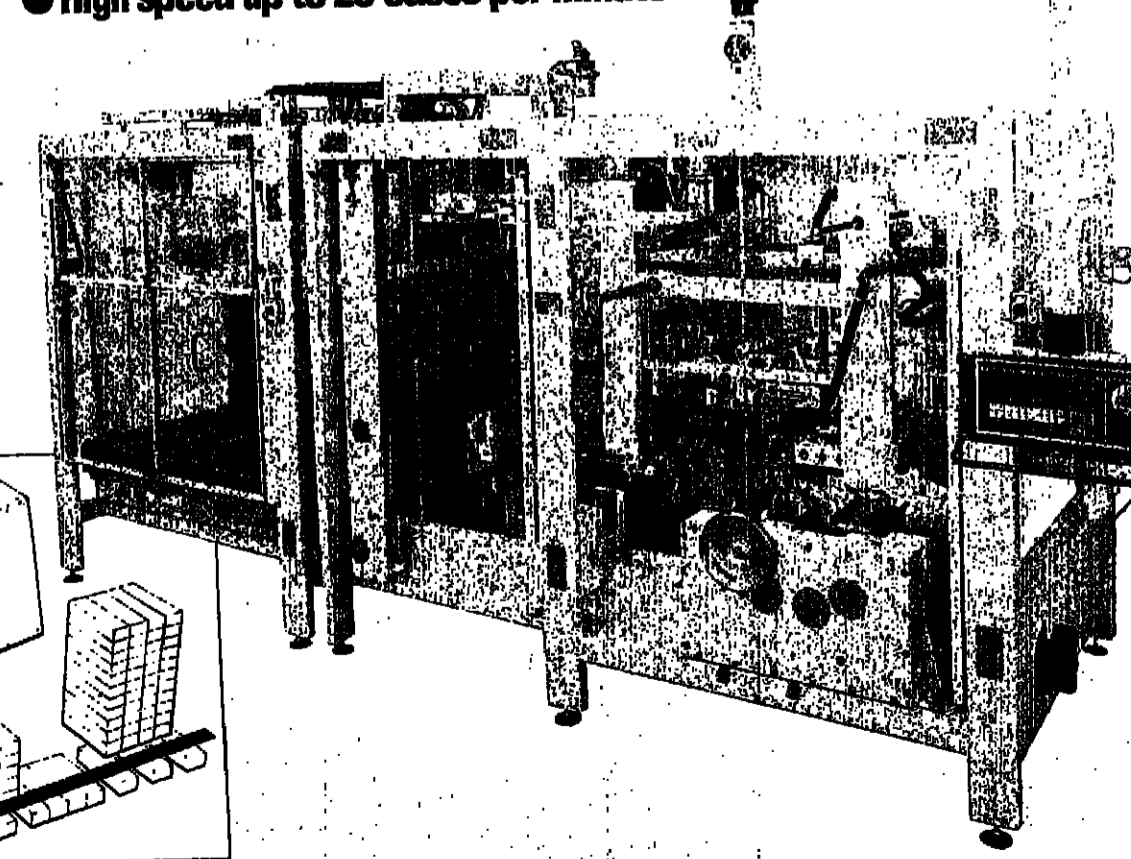


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Scanpack shows green bias

Scanpack 94, Scandinavia's packaging trade fair, will take place later this year, at the Swedish Exhibition Centre in Gothenburg, 11-15 October.

So far, around 350 exhibitors have confirmed their participation and will occupy more than 18,000sq m of space. According to organiser Svenska Mässan, the international character of the fair is illustrated by the fact that more than 34 per cent of exhibitors are from outside Sweden. Around 10 per cent will be from outside Scandinavia.

A one-day conference

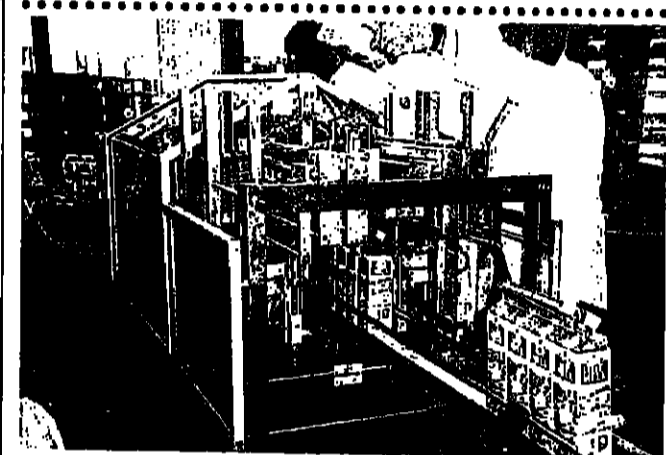
looking at all aspects of the corrugated board industry will take place the day before the show opens and it is hoped that a Swedish Minister will present the latest news on the Ecocycle legislation (see *Packaging News* - June 94).

Welcome to
SCANPACK 94
11-15 October 1994

Taking place during the five day show will be the presentation of the Scanstar competition winners, the Scandinavian equivalent of our Starpack Awards (see page 28). The win-

(The Swedish Exhibition & Congress Centre, Box 5222, 402 24 Gothenburg, Sweden - tel: +31 109 100, fax: 031 160 330).

For further information K7 Call for details 0839 772268



Compact custom built milk carton packer

Norwegian company Nor-Reg will be demonstrating its capabilities in the custom built machinery area at the show, with one of the latest examples being a multipack machine for milk cartons. The multipack concept uses a minimum amount of material and the compact machine to apply this can be fitted onto existing production lines. It can be adjusted to run quarter, half and one litre milk cartons.

Ultra thin papers and laminates will suit industrial applications

Ultra thin food packaging papers, extrusion coated papers and laminates will be on show on Finnish paper makers stand, Lohjan Paperi Oy.

As well as manufacturing lightweight papers for food and other consumer goods, the

company also makes papers for industrial applications such as interleaving for the steel industry. Even very thin papers can be given the necessary strength by using chemical pulp made from softwood as a raw material, says the company (08100

ning packs will be on display throughout the exhibition.

According to the organiser, many developments at the show will reflect the increasing pressures on the entire European packaging industry to reduce waste and accept the producer

responsibility principle. Here, we highlight just some of the many products that will be on show.

For further information, contact the organiser, Svenska Mässan, the international character of the fair is illustrated by the fact that more than 34 per cent of exhibitors are from outside Sweden. Around 10 per cent will be from outside Scandinavia.

A one-day conference

Transparent and flexible material for fresh foods

A polypropylene-based, transparent flexible packaging material, which can be deep drawn for vacuum or modified atmosphere packs, and so used with fresh food products such as meat, fish and cheese, will be on the Åkerlund & Rausing stand.

Called Ecoflex, the material has taken two years to develop and has had its first application in the Swedish market. The food company Scan is using it for its range of cold meat products.

According to Å&R, the transparent material has excellent barrier properties as evoh is used as the barrier layer.

Less strain

"The material combination with pp as the base polymer is part of our drive to use components that put as little strain as possible on the environment," says Christina Olsson, product manager at Å&R (Box 22, S221 00 Lund, Sweden - tel: +46 46 18 34 30). "Our new concept will be marketed in four different combinations in varying thicknesses of 100-250 microns."

"Ecoflex copes with deep drawing under the same conditions as traditional pa/pe materials," she continues, "which means the forming characteristics are very good."

"Apart from its unique functions, we have also succeeded in obtaining a material that is cost effective for both us and for our customers," she concludes.

PolyPaper: paper qualities combined with the strength of plastics

Paper bag lookalike

During the show, Schur Plastic a/s will highlight its latest development - Schur PolyPaper - as well as demonstrate the improvements made to the SchurUp bag.

A combination of materials and a special production process has been employed for the pe-based PolyPaper, which are said to provide the texture, look and dead-fold qualities of paper combined with the strength of plastics.

This, according to the company (tel: +75 57 24 22), makes the material ideal for a wide range of applications where a

paper-look is an advantage, but where paper would not meet the physical properties required. For example, in a damp environment.

Improved stability has now been achieved in the latest SchurUp bag option with the first user being AXA of Denmark, which switched from a form, fill seal solution. AXA's Swedish parent company has also adopted this bag, but in this case, by replacing a bag in box option. The SchurUp bag runs on the Joker packing system which is available from Schur Engineering a/s.

Lohja, Finland - tel: +358 1224201, fax: +358 1224253.

Lohjan's main raw material is chemical pulp bleached without elemental chlorine, but totally chlorine-free papers are also part of the mill's product range. For paper coating, the company uses mainly pe and pp.

For further information K7 Call for details 0839 772268

The use of softwood chemical pulp by Lohjan Paperi ensures adequate strength, even with such very thin papers

Eps on show

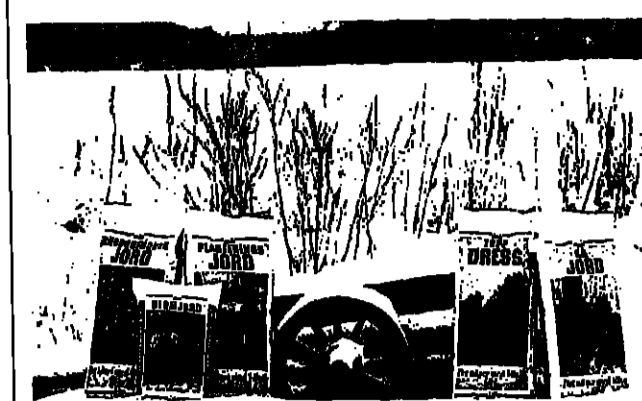
A large range of expanded polystyrene packaging is available from Norwegian manufacturer, Jackson as, much of which will be on display.

Moulded-formed and custom-cut eps packs can be produced, says the company (Postboks 44, Sorkilen 3, N-1620 Gressvik, Norway - tel: +47 69328155, fax: +47 69328749). For customers in Scandinavia, the company takes back used eps.

Eps waste is collected and returned, and then melted down to regranulate. A large percentage of the resulting material is then mixed with virgin granulate and used in the manufacture of the company's extruded insulation boards.

For further information K7 Call for details 0839 772268

Sacks and films for retail



Rosenlew's plastic sacks can be printed in up to six colours

Plastics sacks, intermediate bulk containers, plastics and paper bags for retail use, as well as packaging films, will be displayed by Finnish company Rosenlew Ltd.

Plastics or multilayer sacks can be supplied in either open mouth or valve versions, and printed in up to six colours. The shopping bag range includes both paper and plas-

tics versions and paper pouches are also provided.

Packaging films from the company include shrink, laminates and multilayer products which are all custom made to meet various specific packaging requirements. Anti-lamination shrink films are also produced at the Finnish plant via a special coextrusion process.

These films compete well in terms of shrink capabilities with standard films, but unlike traditional materials, do not adhere to underlying pe products, says the company (Ula-soori, PO Box 22, SF-28601, Pori, Finland - tel: +358 39823222, fax: +358 39412059).

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The corrugated board tray from Förenade Well is used by many Swedish farmers, including cauliflower farmer Ulf Nilsson

Quality grade board tray

A corrugated board tray, manufactured from a special quality grade that allows for what is described as exceptional decorative printing, will be on show from Förenade Well, part of the AssiDomän forestry group.

The tray has been developed for farmed vegetables and are said to offer benefits in all areas, from harvesting to distribution. It is designed for mechanical folding, says the company (+46 413 680 00).

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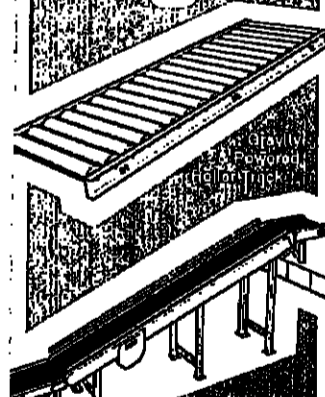
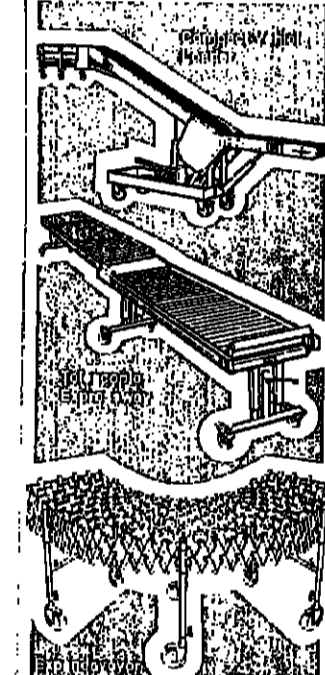
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PACKAGING NEWS/JULY 1994

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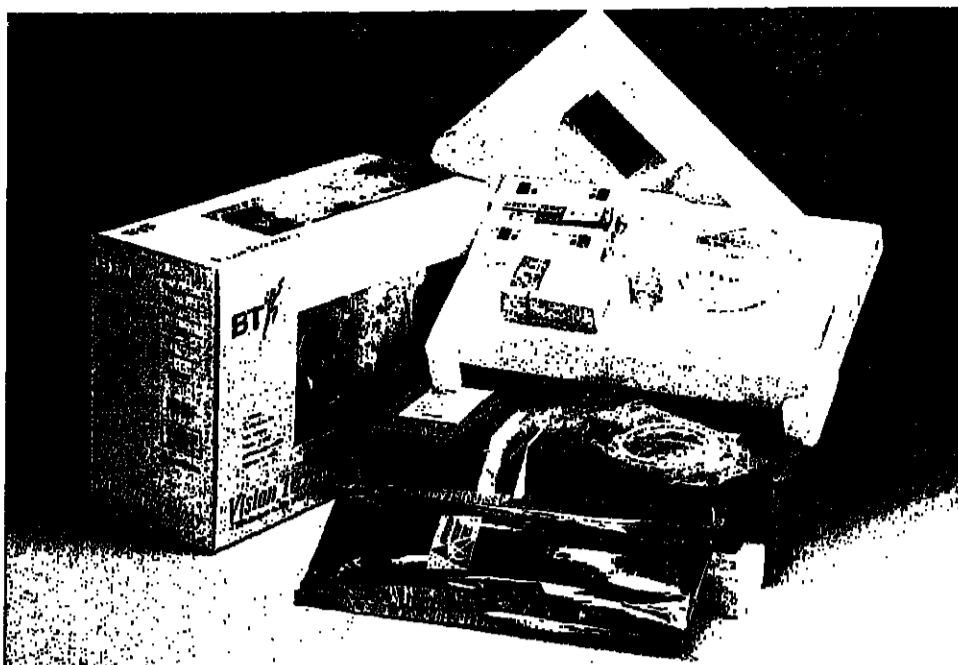
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STARPACK AWARDS



MY Trondex took gold in the consumer and the transit sections with its pack for a BT video telephone

Flexible protection at half the former size

Multiple role and reduced volume were the attributes rewarded in the single gold Starpack award this year from the Institute of Packaging.

MY Trondex (0604 752355) took the gold in both the consumer and transit sections of the competition with its pack designed for a British Telecom video telephone. Perfect protection was only half of the pack's appeal, according to chairman of the transit section judging panel Dennis Goodyear. "It is also half the size of the pack it replaced and extremely attractive at point of sale," he adds.

On a single pallet load, 72 of the packs can now be stacked instead of 25 as before. The materials chosen - cps, films and corrugated - will also withstand vibration and other features of normal transit and handling. The single piece litho laminated case is designed to contain 13 components.

"The standard of award entries has been noticeably higher this year, particularly in technical innovation," comments David Qua of Mars, chairman of the consumer panel of judges. Apart from the one gold, there were 23 silver, 35 bronze and six technical innovation awards out of a total of 199 entries.

Steps forward in plastics

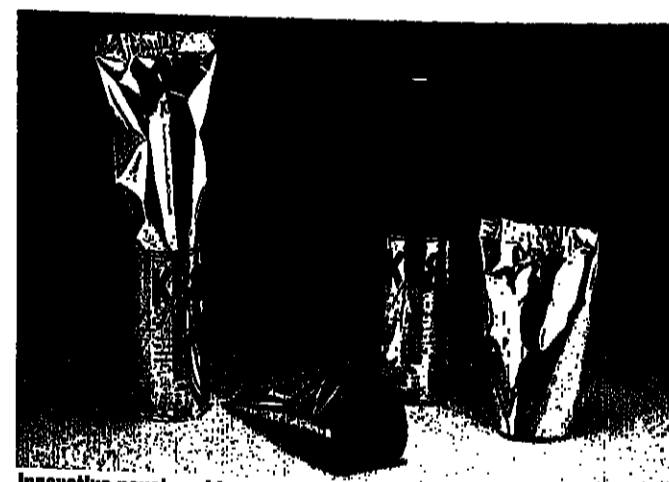
design were recognised in the citation for Continental Pet UK's blowmoulded bottle with integral handle for Kia Ora. It is the first UK application of the technology which places a handle, which can match the cap, in the mould by means of robot before the bottle is blown.

Production from pet granule to finished container takes place in a single machine. The pet bottle also won a technical innovation award for the company (0536 401424).

The same combination of silver and technical innovation awards went to CarnaudMetalbox Foodcan (0905 762323) for its now well known Quantum Can, in a design for JA Sharwood. The lightweight can is litho printed and offers optimum shelf impact, say the judges, as well as minimising use of energy and metal. Easy opening is assured with the addition of the Eole full aperture can end.

Single material solutions,

in demand in other European countries, are represented among award winning packs. As an alternative to blister packs for Peri-Dent dental sticks, BPC Whitefriars (0892 836722) produced a five colour one-piece board pack. A perforation allows for easy opening of the pack which has the



Innovative pouch and beer bottle combination by LPF Verpakkingen

major advantage of being able to run on existing blister packaging equipment.

Another board winner of a silver award on the consumer side was Presentation Products (0241 878441), with its Alloway Legend whisky gift carton. Resembling an old book, the pack imitates a book spine with its metal and paper hingeing and does not use con-

ventional locking devices. Easy open features were key to RPC Containers (025 682298) winning a silver award with its "snacking on the move" pet pots for the B Foods Group. The judge made particular mention of the peelable induction seal and small dent which allows easy prising off of the lid. A shrink sleeve gives especially high quality graphics and gloss.

Picard Packaging (0274 573501) produced an Easter egg pack for Cadbury Ltd which won a silver award. It includes a clamtype of vacuum forming with a retaining board lid. Rigidity in the pack, deriving from its pre-erection and lock-together format, was particularly admired by the judging panel.

Technical innovation and STD (Society of Typographic Designers) awards, as well as bronze, went to LPF Verpakkingen of the Netherlands (010 31 581 32121) for a pouch and beer bottle combination. Produced for Bass Brewers, the pack uses a metallised polyester pouch which encloses the bottle but can be easily opened to leave a label and clear glass bottle.

There was another technical innovation award involving easy opening on flexible packaging for Sidlaw Packaging Colodense (0272 753200). The company applied the Fancy Cut process during the conversion of laminate for KP Foods bags, also winning a bronze award for the result. No tear tapes are necessary, and the feature is seen to meet a clear consumer need.

Six colour flexo preprinting on a David S Smith Corrugated Launceston multipack for Safeway won the company the EFTA special award. An inner fitment allows for bottles of differing heights to be carried together, says the company (0566 772303).

For metal packaging, the Glenmorangie decorated tube won Peter Windet & Associates (071-221 0301) the MIMA special award. The precise register was described as a tremendous technical achievement. ManuPlastics (081-542 3421) won the IOM special award, with design work by Link Design, for a family of

all-pls packs for Crookes Healthcare's Sweetex.

In the consumer family section, stand up pouches from Lawson Mardon Flexible (0761 418761) have been used for chilled foods by Geest Prepared Foods, and won a silver award, a BPF special award and BPIF special award. Printed in seven colours, the pack is said to give outstanding shelf impact.

Another silver went to Tayburn Design Ltd (031-662 0662) for Simmers, with an identity sustained across an octagonal carton, a tin box, a rectangular carton and composite tube. Colour consistency was sustained across the different printing processes used on the various packs.

Boots Performance range of toiletries for men won not only a silver award but also the Cosmetics World News award. Lippa Pearce Design (081-744 2100) was responsible for the range, which encompasses aerosols, tubes and plastics bottles. Offset and screen printing were used.

Another Lawson Mardon Flexible win for technical innovation - was for Colman's sauces, complete with easy open tearing. This does not damage the material's barrier or shelf life.

Among the silver awards for transit packaging was a David S Smith Tri-Wall Europe (0600 772222) case for a tractor windscreens which locks the product into position. A second win for David S Smith Corrugated Launceston involved a single wall B flute pack to hold fragile bottles of soft drink



Silver awards for David S Smith Packaging: Arlines Countryside Collection pack, 8 x 1 litre Drinkmaster concentrate transit pack and Marchant Manufacturing greaseproof paper pack



Continental Pet UK's blowmoulded bottle with integral handle produced for Kia Ora: the handle, which can match the cap, is placed in the mould before the bottle is blown



The Boots Performance range of toiletries for men, designed by Lippa Pearce, won both a silver award and the Cosmetics World News award; Offset and screen printing were used

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Added value enticements in palletisation

Palletising is a market where there seems no limit to demand - with increasing line automation - an ongoing feature throughout the industry - but equally, no shortage of possible suppliers.

There is now so much choice for any potential buyer, with small and large high speed conventional systems and robot units to choose between, that the suppliers are doing all they can to adapt their product to specific market or indeed customer needs.

Many systems now offer 'added value' features such as integrated pallet wrapping, or other techniques for pallet stabilisation.

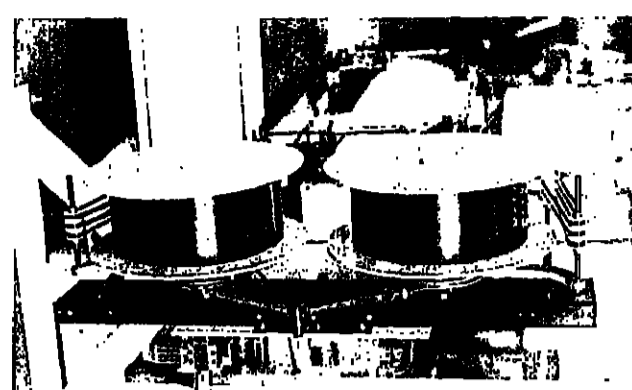
One such machine is the Apollo CK750 palletiser, now

equipped to put a band of strapping around each layer and so secure the entire load. The strap is applied as the leading row of each layer is pushed through from the infeed onto the stripper plate.

As the layer is formed, the strapping loops around it and is finally secured and tensioned when it is complete. The plc can be programmed to strap all layers or selected layers. The system reduces the risk of load collapse between palletisation and stretch/shrink wrapping.

Sole agent for Apollo in the UK is Anicholme Machinery (0652 657521).

An example of dual role machinery is Maxim's Combi-Wrap palletiser, which saves space loading and wrapping



Meco Iwema: PL5 modular palletiser

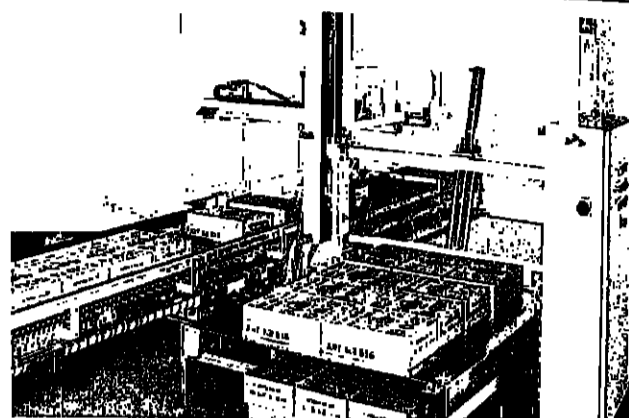
display pallets in a single module (see PN February '94), available through Mancon UK (0924 277070).

Some companies will offer the completely customised approach, and end users may

be obliged to follow this route because of the peculiarities of line or product (see page 33).

Where managers are in a hurry to install equipment, custom building is often not an option. The compromise is

Bridging the gap between the packing line and goods in transit, we build up a picture of palletising, robot case and traypacking, retailer demands for milk in polybottles and a mixed load of end of line news.



The strapping unit on the Apollo CK750 Mini palletiser

often a modular system, which can get closer than standardised equipment to precise needs, without requiring the purchase of new infeeds or other expense and avoiding long lead times.

Equipment such as Meco Iwema's modular PL5 can be supplied in semi or fully automatic format, with high or low infeed. Automatic size change is an option, says the company (0933 274141).

Both Ocme UK and FTH Foerdertechnik UK report rising demand among customers for turnkey installations. Palletising is increasingly just one end of line function which must be integrated with all others, says FTH, without the end user having to coordinate equipment sourcing.

Ocme's end of line offer includes case and pallet handling conveyors. High level infeed palletisers from the company (0635 298171) can have single, double, triple and even quadruple lane infeeds. Speeds can top 120 packs a minute.

There is a distinct gap between end of line equipment in the UK and, for example, Germany. FTH, which is introducing a high speed sack palletiser to the UK market (see page 2), reports that in the flour industry, potential machine buyers from Britain are still being shown 12-year-old installations in Germany.

"Differences understood"

There are obvious reasons for this on the supply side, with individual plants serving larger markets, and so justifying such automation. But companies which know the continental as well as British markets, even taking into account these differences, note greater resistance to mechanisation as an alternative to manual lifting in the UK.

Average size of lines and simple cost considerations explain a great deal. "But robotics have opened the whole thing up at a fraction of the cost," says Bob Pollard, sales manager at FTH. "Conventional palletisers have by

and large been limited to high speed lines."

Among the many examples of robot palletising now available in the UK are Conetti (GB) (0602 336422), with equipment for palletising sacks with or without overlap - or using a combination of the two. This sort of programmability marks out robot palletising from its conventional counterpart. Of course, what users gain in flexibility, they lose in speed.

"Successful installations"

Antrac Turkington (0282 415174) has made several successful installations involving the Italian Costi robot palletiser. ABB Robotics has the IRB 6400 designed for materials handling, palletising and depalletising. It has a reach of 2.8m or 3m and lifting capacity up to 150kg, says ABB (0908 695595).

According to Dan Conveyor, it is becoming increasingly difficult to find people in "northern countries" willing to carry out manual palletising. It is not clear whether they include Britain in this category. The company also highlights the risks of inaccurate palletising when it is done by hand.

Dan Conveyor demonstrates that flexibility is not confined to robot systems. An installation of Dan Conveyor (0502 586614) equipment at Svea-Choklad ab in Sweden handles a variety of confectionery goods packed in cartons. There are 27 possible sorting and palletising programmes taking 36 packs a minute, and forming single product and mixed pallet loads.

Refinements to plc control on conventional palletisers include a facility for on-screen adjustments to preset pallet patterns on the PAHM 1012 labelling palletiser from Figgie Material Handling Products (UK) Ltd (0204 705786). Bar graph functions display the percentage of each pattern used. Cases, trays and other containers up to 250kg can be individually labelled and stacked on the machine.

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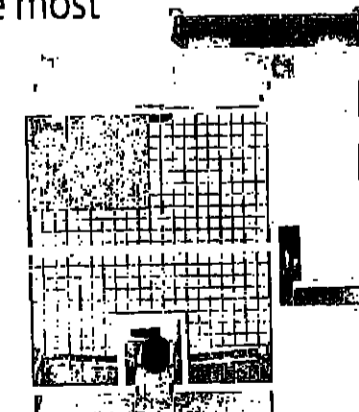
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Robots offer vital flexibility

When packs change, ranges are added to, refills require handling or the same pack is loaded for transit in different orientations, flexibility is no longer just a vague concept in the mouths of machine manufacturers but a basic tool for long and short term survival in a demanding marketplace.

Manufacturers and suppliers of robot pick and place systems feel that the increasing availability of their systems, growing acceptance of their principles and establishment of credentials is being concentrated by marketing pressures, and together persuading more companies that this is just the sort of flexibility they need.

Up to three filling machines, for example, for liquid cartons, can be linked to a single casepacking robot by separate infeed conveyors. The flexibility of such a system means that single-product cases, or collations combining two or three product variants are all possible. This sort of 'mixed bag', increasingly demanded by retail outlets, is only feasible with a robot as opposed to a wraparound system, says Dick South of Cermet UK (0480 455919).

The French parent company has installed a robot pick and place for Reckitt and Coleman, France, which not only packs notoriously diffi-

cult trigger sprays into cases, but will also switch over to trigger-less rills.

Robots can switch from row by row collations to layer by layer, or from placing tubes, say, on end in a point of sale tray to laying them on their side. There is also a degree of long-term as well as short-term production flexibility in robots which is said to set these systems apart from others. Companies may know what they will be packing only for the next couple of years while wanting to invest for the next five.

When there can be no secure knowledge of what primary packs will be handled, or what the market demands for

transit packs will be, robots provide the most flexible option. It may mean investment in new tooling rather than in a complete new machine.

"Singles out toiletries"

Dave Morris of System Packaging (0924 364844), agents for German robot manufacturer Schubert, singles out the toiletries sector as one where the demands of marketing departments are driving investment in this sort of system. The design of a shampoo bottle may change

after only 12 months on the market, and the packing system for transit must be able to cope with that.

Unfamiliarity with this kind of equipment still means that many companies are wary of taking that first step into robot systems. "People move slowly into robotics, but those who have used them in the past then tend to come back to us again," says Mr Morris. As filling speeds increase and factories gear up for longer shifts, he notes, more companies are disposed to invest in downstream automation.

For some products, robots are the only viable solution. Flow wrapped confectionery, for example, coming off the line at up to 600 a minute, can only be coped with by using a robot pick and place with 'racetrack' conveyor to allow build up of product.

Conversely, for some lines conventional casepacking is

clearly more suitable than there is a standard prod, such as bottled drinks, b line speed and, perhaps, l space. But where either co could be followed, compa are increasingly ready to c sider robots, reports Mr Sot

"Maximum investment"

Cermet in particular sees growing use of robot case-traypacking as being driven by the larger multinational companies, especially where production is being concentrated in single plants serving national or international markets, so involving maximum investment and automation.

Like System Packaging is witnessing a broadening of the technology's acceptability and application, not only toiletries, but also from confectionery to cakes and biscuits

A shift of attitude on work-related injuries

There has been a shift in attitude among employers from one where work-related injuries of whatever type were just 'things that happened' to an awareness that the vast proportion of this risk can be eliminated by a combination of staff training and investment.

Since we first highlighted the responsibilities of companies towards their own workforce under the Manual Handling regulations (see PN July '93), many of the smaller companies with less capital to invest have begun to respond positively, and shown how the company - and not just individual workers - can benefit.

Most importantly, there is now the perception that careful investment - in training as much as in equipment - pays off. The regulations coming into force when they did a year and a half ago certainly helped focus attention on this whole area. But there is as much of the carrot as the stick about an issue which starts from the premise that three million working days are lost a year, according to one estimate last year, through manual handling injuries.

When Entertainment UK automated its packing and distribution area (see page 33) it

succeeded in cutting out manual lifting of cases, which reached 25kg in weight, from the entire line. Even so, the manufacturer recognises its responsibility to look after its workforce, and risk assessment is currently being carried out. The company sees its commitment to BS5750 quality as another incentive.

"A raised awareness of the risks"

The Health and Safety Executive (HSE), for its part, reports a raised awareness among companies of the risks involved and ways of avoiding them. Leaflets from the HSE, including the free Work related upper limb disorders in the printing industry, also promote a greater awareness of ergonomics among workers.

The printing industry leaflet shows how risk can be increased or decreased, and gives examples of how problems have been solved in the industry. Another leaflet, Upper limb disorders: assessing the risks, is also available free from the HSE (051-709 1354).



Cermet robot system installed for Reckitt and Coleman, France

Matters

JULY 1994

INVESTMENT KEY TO CONTINUED SUCCESS

RPC Group Plc announced its first full year's results as a public company at the beginning of June. Sales turnover increased by £4.3 million while operating profits moved up by 13% to £7.85 million.

"Our achievements are well in line with our predictions at the time of flotation last summer," comments RPC Chief Executive Ron Marsh. "This is particularly satisfying given the general recession and the tough trading conditions which all businesses have had to contend with over the past year."

Once again RPC's multi-site operation, with individual sites specialising in particular materials, manufacturing processes and markets, has been fundamental to the group's continuing success. "The broad spectrum of markets and customers we serve has insulated us from dramatic swings in any one sector of application," explains Ron Marsh. "Competition in all markets has been understandably tough but this is something we have become used to. The individual expertise and knowledge of each site means we are well placed to provide quality, value-for-money containers to meet individual customer and market requirements."

RPC has always placed great emphasis on product quality and customer service and this has been underlined by a commitment to continual investment throughout the group. In the two years' leading up to flotation investment totalled in excess of £12 million and a further £7.5 million was invested during 1993/94, mainly in new plant across the five sites. Healthy investment will continue during the coming year with the announcement already of the purchase of a second factory at Corby.

"Our aim is to continue to expand the business and build on our market-leading position, while at the same time ensuring that we do not falter in terms of levels of service or quality," comments Ron Marsh. The company places equal importance in investment in people. Staff loyalty and commitment have played a vital role in RPC's successful transition from management buyout to public company. Ron Marsh is therefore particularly pleased that the key vacancies which have arisen as a result of the forthcoming retirement of Oakham Director and General Manager Mike Rowley have been filled internally: Raunds Director and General Manager Philip Hilton will move to Oakham in September with Murray Stone, currently Group Financial Controller, being appointed to take up the reins at Raunds.

ENVIRONMENTAL COMMITMENT

The Board of RPC Group Plc has adopted an Environmental Policy which commits the company to a programme aimed at enhancing its responsibility towards the environment. Specific areas which are being addressed include the improvement of energy efficiency, the reduction of gaseous emissions, the re-use of polymeric scrap, and the development of processes for the incorporation of recycled materials.

In this last area in particular RPC made important strides during 1993/94 with the introduction of two more container ranges incorporating recycled material: custom-moulded HDPE packs for Shell Oils from RPC Raunds and polypropylene paint containers for ICI Dulux produced by RPC Oakham.

A copy of RPC's Environmental Policy is available on request from the Company.

MAKING SPACE AT CORBY

RPC Group Plc has announced a £1 million investment in its Corby operation with the purchase of a second factory.

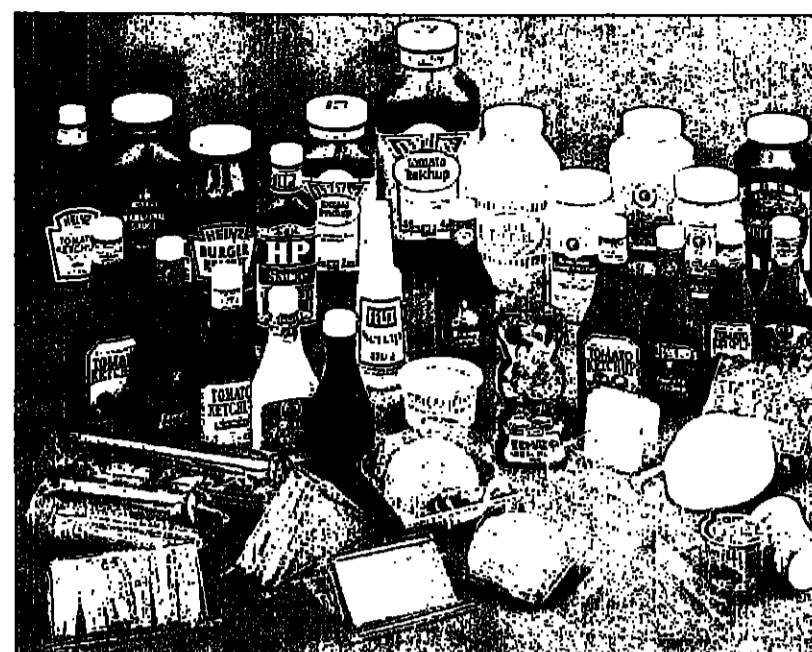
The 35,000 sq ft freehold premises are close to RPC's existing unit at Corby and will enable the site to continue to expand its blow-moulding and thermoforming operations.

"We had literally run out of room at our existing site," explains RPC Chief Executive Ron Marsh. "Corby has enjoyed excellent growth over the past few years and extra space was needed to cope with an increasing number of orders and an expanding product range."

RPC says that although the plastic sauce bottle is now well established in the UK retail market, demand is continuing to grow significantly. Corby's recent successes in this market include a 14% increase in exports, aided by the launch of a high-gloss version of its retail bottles.

The site has also continued to gain business in the UK catering sauce market, another fast-growing sector particularly since the launch of cook-in sauces developed specially for caterers.

In addition, Corby is undertaking a significant expansion of its thermoforming operation with the introduction of a new small pot range, the Alpini, for coleslaw and prepared salads. The pot has already secured a number of major orders from



The opening of a second factory at Corby reflects the continuing success of the site's product ranges.

leading food manufacturers and retailers.

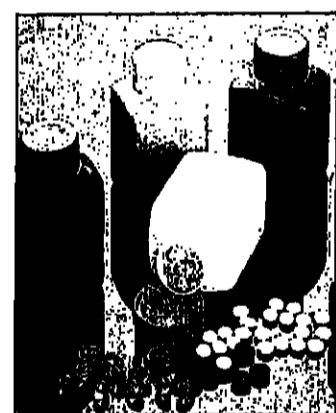
Initially the new factory will provide additional warehouse space but eventually all thermoforming production will be transferred there. The existing Corby management team, led by Director and General Manager Peter Hole, will have responsibility for the entire expanded Corby operation.

"The new Corby factory

continues RPC's policy of sustained organic growth," comments Ron Marsh. "Everyone at Corby can be proud of their hard work and achievements which have led to this expansion. With these new premises we are ensuring that Corby's excellent growth and success can be continued and we look forward to a buoyant future for the new combined site."

KEEPING IN EACH OTHERS SITES

It has frequently been acknowledged that a key factor in RPC's success lies in the autonomous operations of its five manufacturing sites and the individual skills and expertise each offers in its particular markets.



Cubitt, the HDPE bottle for pills and capsules, which will now form part of Raunds's range.

Nevertheless the company derives equal strength and benefit from the fact that the sites are part of a larger group. This allows RPC maximum flexibility both in meeting particular customer requirements and in identifying and developing opportunities in existing and new markets.

"Our structure provides the best of both worlds," comments Chief Executive Ron Marsh. "While the sites operate in the main as

specialist units, they benefit from being part of a larger organisation in areas such as investment. Nevertheless, even as a group, we also remain a specialised company - dedicated to rigid plastics packaging - and as such the sites can work together as required on particular joint projects."

For customers, the major benefit is that RPC can offer a 'one stop shop' for all their plastic packaging requirements. Indeed, several major names already take containers from more than one site. For RPC itself, the close working relationships between the sites enables the company easily to adapt to changing circumstances or quickly respond to new opportunities as they present themselves.

The company has for example been actively pursuing developments in the toiletries and household markets with major investment in the acquisition of equipment from Banbury Plastics during 1993.

While a number of sites have concentrated on this area, the downturn in demand for dilute drinks packaging at Raunds during last year's poor summer offered spare capacity at the site which could be dedicated to the manufacture of toiletries bottles.

As a result, it was decided to locate all the equipment from the Banbury Plastics acquisition at Raunds and centralise much of RPC's activities in these new



RPC Raunds will be taking a leading role in the Group's activities in the toiletries market.

markets - particularly the development of stock containers - at the site.

Raunds now becomes a multi-material site for toiletries and household products, offering customers a choice of PVC, HDPE and OPVC containers plus full design facilities for custom-moulded products. A dedicated team, led by Business Manager Jon Wragg, is already developing a comprehensive range of stock containers as well as pursuing a number of important custom-moulded orders with several leading names.

These important developments have also had beneficial spin-offs throughout the group. With the transfer of certain equipment from Raunds to Rushden, Raunds has been given valuable additional space to install new machinery for a number of exciting custom-moulded projects.

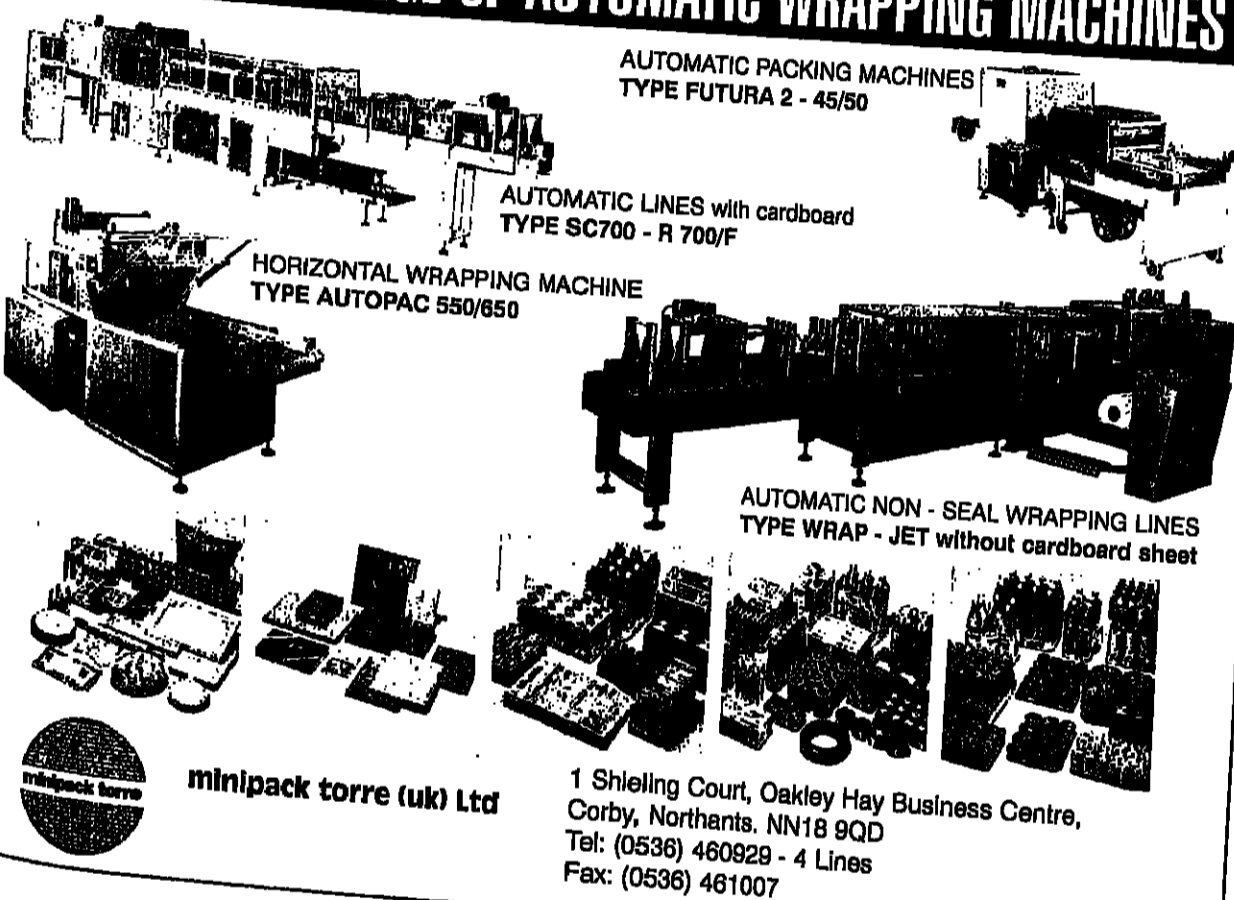
Rushden in turn - in order to make room for the Raunds equipment - has transferred its two PET machines to Blackburn, which over the past two years has deservedly built a name for itself as a leading player in PET container production.

The site has in fact become the UK's leading producer of wide-mouth PET jars and is already working on a number of new projects for top UK brands.



Cuprinol is one major customer to take containers from more than one site in the RPC Group.

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PACKAGING SYSTEMS AND CONVEYOR SYSTEMS FOR SMALL PACKS AND PALLETISERS IN A NUMBER OF INDUSTRIES



HP is extending its use of plastic bottles for its brand-leading sauce ranges with the introduction of custom-moulded high-gloss multi-layer polypropylene bottles designed and produced by RPC Containers Corby.

The high-gloss finish is achieved by a different formulation of polypropylene for the outer layer of the bottle. The combination of materials provides a visually appealing, contact-clear bottle which has enhanced appearance on-shelf, maintains HP's quality image and emphasises the premium nature of the products. The oxygen barrier is provided by EVOH.

The introduction of the 550g plastic bottle for HP Fruity reflects the brand's positioning as an alternative to traditional tomato ketchup.

"Over 40% of tomato ketchup is

now packaged in plastic bottles, and 60% is in packs over 500g in size," explains HP Senior Product Manager Katy Lockwood.

"HP Fruity is a unique product in its own right with a distinctive tangy flavour and clearly including a plastic pack in the range will help to widen its appeal still further, particularly among tomato ketchup users."

RPC Corby's custom-moulded design for the new bottle was to a specific brief from HP.

"We required an attractive, eye-catching pack that retained all the characteristics and qualities of the HP Brand and the famous original HP bottle," says Katy Lockwood.

"Using RPC's in-house design team with its CAD facility meant we could easily make minute changes and modifications to achieve exactly what we were looking for."

The new Barbecue Sauce pack marks HP's further development of a rapidly-expanding market in which it

CORBY

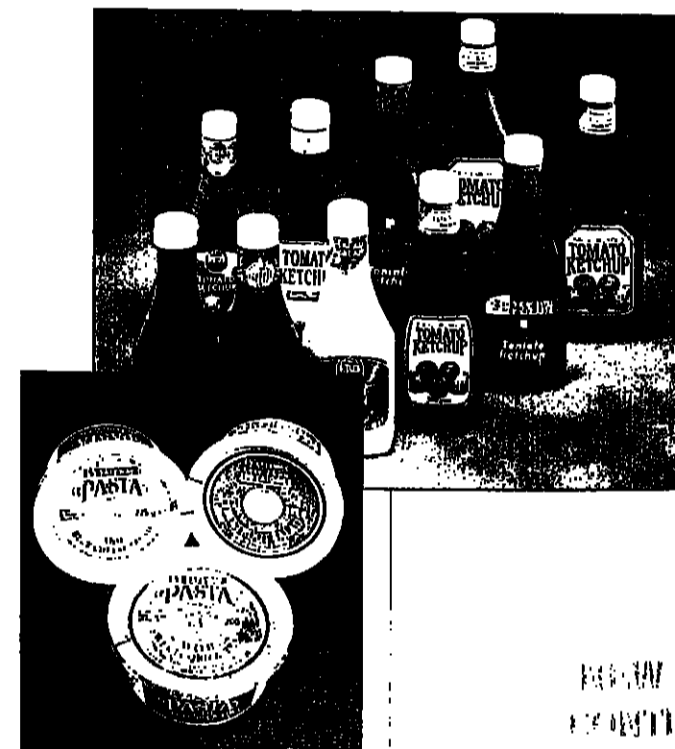
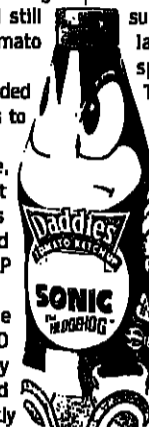
is already the established brand leader.

"As brand leader we are extending and developing this growing market," comments Katy Lockwood. "The new pack recognises the popularity of the plastic pack and at the same time provides an appealing new design to help build the brand further without losing any of HP's premium-quality image."

RPC Containers Corby is also supplying a custom-moulded multi-layer polypropylene bottle for special packs of HP's Daddies Tomato Ketchup featuring Sonic the Hedgehog.

The unusually-shaped packs are shrink sleeved with one of three Sonic poses to create maximum on-shelf impact and appeal. The curved lines of the bottle also make it easy to handle and squeeze. Important benefits for a product aimed primarily at children. The pack is designed to be collectable as a toy once it is empty.

RPC used its CAD equipment to refine the final bottle design which is sleeved prior to hot filling of the ketchup.



RPC Containers Corby is expanding its thermoforming operations with the introduction of a new round 101mm diameter polypropylene pot, the Alpha range, for prepared salads and coleslaws. In particular, a high standard of material finish and quality printing ensure good overall decoration to achieve maximum on-shelf impact.

RPC Corby has already secured a number of major orders for the new pot including the launch of leading

retailer Safeway's premium range of prepared salads.

The Safeway pot features a specially moulded base to further enhance on-shelf appeal, with a transparent lid to allow product visibility. Full colour printing on both the pot and lid is provided in-house by RPC Corby.

"Prepared salads are a growing and competitive market," comments Clara Moore, Trade Marketing Manager at Safeway. "As such we

required a container that would provide maximum on-shelf impact and help to emphasise the quality of the salads themselves, as well as being practical, consumer-friendly and maintaining product freshness."

"We have been delighted with the RPC pot which has met these criteria. In particular, the quality of printwork is excellent and the packaging overall presents a quality image for our product range."

BLACKBURN

PET JAR SIGNALS CHANGE IN CONVENTION



supplying a 4.5 litre amber tinted PET Jar for Makro's range of own-brand instant coffees for the catering industry.

Makro's move into PET represents a major departure from the more conventional lever lid tins traditionally used in this market.

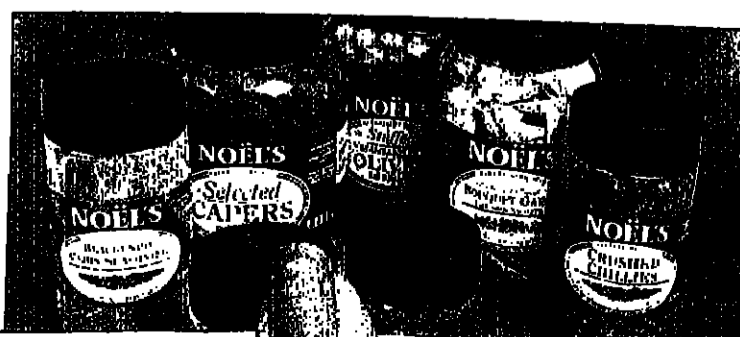
"We are very market-focused and develop products both to meet and anticipate changing customer requirements," explains Barry Wilkes of Makro. "With the new PET jars, we have created an attractive pack which, equally important, is also practical and convenient to use."

"We are very pleased with the new packs. In particular, they are being produced to a very high standard, commensurate with Makro's own standing in the marketplace."

SOLE SUPPLY DEAL GIVES BLACKBURN CLEAR ADVANTAGE

RPC Containers Blackburn has been appointed sole supplier of PET jars for leading speciality food company L. Noel & Sons Ltd, to package the company's catering range of herbs, spices and speciality food ingredients. Four sizes of jars are being supplied - 485ml, 905ml, 1650ml and 2.27 litre.

Noel's manufactures a comprehensive selection of speciality foods for the catering trade. Packaging is very important to the company both in terms of safety in a busy catering environment and for its particular range of products all of which have a high visual appeal.



RPC Containers Blackburn is producing a new squeeze 340ml PET bottle to package CPC UK Ltd's brand leading HELLMANN'S Mayonnaise.

The concept of squeeze PET was originally developed in the United States where a squeeze bottle for HELLMANN'S has been available for some time. CPC UK Ltd approached RPC Blackburn, who already supply the company with PET catering jars and polypropylene small pots, to develop a similar bottle for the UK market.

Key to the 'squeeze' nature of the bottle is its oval shape. "PET in itself is a strong robust material and not particularly easy to squeeze so the design of the bottle is critical," explains Philip Jones, RPC Blackburn's Sales and Marketing Manager. The oval shape provides a wide middle section where pressure can be most effectively applied to squeeze the pack."

The new bottle is produced in mono-layer PET, offering excellent barrier properties to maintain product shelf-life.

For CPC, the squeeze PET bottle combines the traditional benefits of PET - sparkling clarity, lightweight and resistance to shattering, the last two particularly

important for a frequently-handled food product - with the additional consumer-convenience of accurate portion control.

"HELLMANN'S is a brand leader and it is therefore fitting that we should offer a first in the marketplace with the introduction of a popular squeeze bottle format in PET," comments CPC UK's Purchasing Manager Peter Laycock. "At the same time it was essential that we retained the correct image and positioning for the product. The new bottle is an attractive shape and the clarity of the PET contributes to the brand's impact on retail shelves."

HELLMANN'S is a registered trade mark of CPC International Inc.



RPC Containers Rushden is supplying a new custom-moulded one litre PVC bottle for Robinsons Whole Fruits and Special Ranges. The striking new bottle presents a more contemporary image of Robinsons while making more efficient use of space on shelf and in customer warehouses.

The main change is in bottle shape - the new design is narrower in diameter, which makes it easier for children to pour. The new pack

RUSHDEN

also takes up significantly less space on shelf.

Other changes include a new 'lemon squeezer' feature at the top of the bottle which emphasises the Robinsons brand's fruit refreshment proposition. However the new bottle retains the 'roundness' seen as a core brand attribute by consumers. In research, the bottle was preferred by 77 per cent of consumers and, while modern, does not alienate Robinsons's sizeable consumer base.

RPC RUSHDEN DEVELOPS UNIQUE LARGE CONTAINER

RPC Containers Rushden is supplying a unique twin aperture 30 litre container for leading chemical distributor Ellis & Everard.

The new container, based on RPC's existing 30 litre 'square-round' large container, is the result of extensive development work between the two companies and is used to pack Hydrogen Peroxide.

The mono-layer HMPE container features two closures - a 65mm vented cap for the main aperture with a secondary trisure 3/4 inch bung on the other side of the top of the container. This, says RPC, ensures that there is no gugging when pouring, and is the first time

this particular twin aperture combination has been used in a large container.

Special heavy duty HMPE is used



TOILETRIES BOTTLES' HONG KONG SUCCESS

Leading toiletries manufacturer Bodycare Toiletries Ltd has selected RPC Rushden's stock 1 litre and 500ml toiletries bottles to package a range of products for leading Hong Kong chemist chain Watson's.

The RPC bottles have attractive curved lines for maximum on-shelf impact. In addition, OPVC offers excellent sparkle and clarity, essential to complement the premium image of packaged products. There is a

wide area for labels.

The material also offers practical advantages such as being safe and easy to handle and providing good strength at light weights both on shelf and in the home.

"The bottles are attractive and practical and provide the ideal packaging for our products," comments Ron Metheringham, Joint Managing Director, Bodycare Toiletries.



for this application because of the aggressive nature of the product being packed and the containers have received UN Packing Group II Certification.

"These containers form an important part of our new development," comments David Morton, Product Manager, Ellis & Everard. "As such they need to be practical and user-friendly and project a quality image. We have been delighted with RPC's technical input and the container which has resulted. In particular the unique anti-glug feature is a major boon for the packaging of this type of product."



OAKHAM



paint containers.

The material is cleaned, processed and pelletised by Linpac Recycling to a detailed specification laid down by RPC which enables the 25% recycled material to be incorporated into the packs without slowing down the production cycle. Lengthy tests have confirmed that the packs meet ICI's minimum specification for internal distribution including the ability for filled containers to be stacked two pallets high.

"As the market leader with a world famous brand name, we are keen to be at the forefront of environmental packaging initiatives," says Chris Harris, General Manager - Dulux Paints Retail.

"Our research has shown that plastic paint containers are preferred by the consumer in the UK. We hope that our pioneering work with RPC will enhance the environmental acceptability of these containers to our customers."

RPC hopes to expand its recycled packs greatly in the future.



Relaunched Smooth and Textured Masonry Paints with an improved finish from leading supplier Blue Hawk Limited feature brand new 6 colour designs on 5 litre painttainers supplied and printed by RPC Containers Oakham.

"This is a major relaunch for Blue Hawk and we needed eye-catching and attractive new designs to

communicate the changes clearly and effectively to our customers," explains Blue Hawk Group Product Manager, Stuart White.

"We have always been delighted with the quality of containers supplied by RPC. In particular, we are very pleased with the excellent print finish achieved on the containers for our new range."



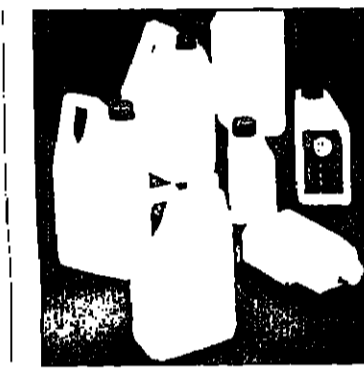
RAUNDS

RPC Containers Raunds is further extending its Impact standard container range manufactured in HDPE with the introduction of 0.5 and 1 litre non-handled sizes.

Like the rest of the Impact range, the new non-handled packs are designed to bridge the gap between standard and custom-moulded containers and provide an enhanced image for the products they package.

"The new Impact containers are a natural extension to our range, meeting demand from customers in many different industries for small, convenient, practical packs which still maintain maximum on-shelf appeal," explains RPC Raunds' Sales and Marketing Manager David Baker.

RPC Raunds says interest in the new packs has come from diverse markets such as automotive, DIY, household chemicals and toiletries.



RPC Containers Raunds is supplying custom-moulded 400g polypropylene bottles to Tate & Lyle for the launch of the company's new 'Tops' dessert topping range. This major order continues RPC Raunds' development of polypropylene production to accompany its existing HDPE business.

The new squeezable polypropylene bottles are consumer-friendly and easy-to-use. They feature colour-coordinated polypropylene pop-up lids with tamper evident seals and colourful labels to provide maximum on-shelf - as well as table-top - impact. To give the bottles further appeal, a 'swirl' design has been moulded into its neck.

"Tate & Lyle has invested heavily

in this project and has developed a range of products which we believe will compete very successfully in this sector," comments Bob Laird, Marketing Manager for Tate & Lyle

convenience in the home. In addition, our pre-launch research highlighted the strength of the Tate & Lyle name - particularly in offering top-quality products - so our packaging needs to reflect and promote this image.

"We have been very pleased with RPC's contribution to the project, both in terms of the company's creative input and its CAD facilities which enabled us easily and quickly to adjust and refine the original design, as well as the quality of the finished containers and RPC's ability to create the 'swirl' effect in the neck of the bottle."

Mr Laird added that the entire packaging of the 'Tops' range had scored very highly in pre-launch research.



Sugars. "Packaging is obviously an important factor for visual impact to encourage trial, and for consumer

ENSURING THE CORRECT PRODUCT IMAGE

Containers from RPC Raunds' Impact range have been selected by Cuprinol Ltd for the launch of two product ranges.

1 and 2 litre size Impact containers are being used to package floor polishes as part of the company's new 'Enhance' wax and polishes range, while 2.5 and 5 litre containers have been chosen for three products in the revised and repackaged Cuprotop range.

In both instances, says Cuprinol Ltd's Purchasing Manager Ian Gunning, the Impact containers were selected for the on-shelf appeal and premium image which this standard container range projects.

"With the launch of new or revised products - particularly in the fiercely competitive DIY market - it

can be difficult to justify the costs of designing and producing custom-moulded packs," he explains. "At the same time, Cuprinol is an established name with a premium quality image and any containers used to package our products need to reflect this."

"With these new ranges, in particular, we wanted to create maximum presence and appeal on-shelf and present a much more upmarket image than is possible with the standard jerrycan. RPC's Impact range gave us virtually what we were looking for without any need for custom-moulding."

"For both ranges we have been able to select a practical pack which still ensures it grabs attention on-shelf," concludes Mr Gunning.



NAMAS ACCREDITATION WILL BRING CUSTOMER BENEFITS

Although RPC Containers is perhaps best known for its market-leading developments in PVC and OPVC since the mid-1980s - particularly the bottles supplied to top names and leading brands in the drinks market - the site has nevertheless also enjoyed similar successes in the large container market.

Like all markets served throughout the RPC Group, Rusden's involvement in large containers has not been a 'me-too' operation to rival other suppliers. Rather the site has developed several innovations in its range of containers over the years.

For example, its rectangular container with special interlocking top and base for easy stacking has won many major orders since its introduction in 1992; the installation of a \$900,000 Krupp Kautex machine last year has enabled the site to be the first UK company to offer a visi-stripe facility on a large container; and last month RPC Rusden introduced a unique new twin-aperture container for hazardous products.

Plans are now well advanced for the site to receive NAMAS (National Accreditation Measurement System) Certification to enable it to test containers to UN Group I and II

classification which is endorsed by PIRA by issue of a UN Certificate.

The move reflects the growing number of customers seeking UN Certification ahead of a change in UK regulations in 1995, which will make the classification mandatory for the transportation of any type of

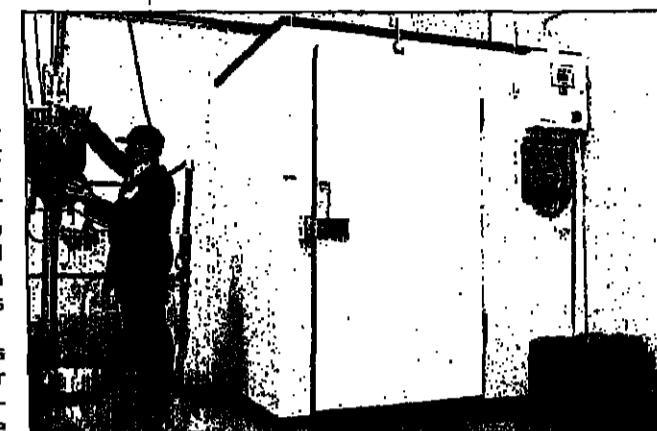
carry out our own tests and accreditation will eliminate this wait."

As part of its work towards accreditation, RPC Rusden has invested over £50,000 in a purpose built test laboratory. The stringent requirements demanded of UN classification include drop tests onto all sides and corners of the container at -18°C, a month-long stack test at 40°C, plus a hydraulic pressure test and an air leak test under water, all designed to test a container's performance to extremes and in particular assess it for signs of leaking.

Like BS 5750 quality accreditation, strict regulations are set down for the attaining of NAMAS accreditation. Assessors check not

only that all test equipment is of the proper standard but carry out regular update visits to ensure the quality of testing is being maintained and records kept accurately and up-to-date.

"NAMAS accreditation will enable us to further improve our customer service in the large container market and build on the successes we have already achieved," concludes Jim Kellock. "Attaining NAMAS accreditation will enable us to provide a faster service to our customers requiring UN Group I or the more rigorous UN Group II Certification," explains Rusden's Business Manager for Large Containers Jim Kellock. "We already manufacture a great many containers to the required standard but obtaining the official certificate for this from a third party testing facility can often be a time-consuming process. The ability to



The new purpose built test laboratory at RPC Rusden.

MANAGEMENT CHANGES SHOW STRENGTH IN DEPTH

RPC's Oakham's Director and General Manager Mike Rowley retires in September this year. Philip Hilton, currently Raunds' Director and General Manager, takes over at Oakham while Group Financial Controller Murray Stone will be the new General Manager at Raunds.

Mike Rowley has spent almost his entire career in the packaging industry. After time with John Waddington and Bowater, he joined Reed International in 1964 and has specialised in plastics packaging for the past 28 years, the last 8 as General Manager of RPC's Oakham operation.

Among his many achievements during this time, he has seen the site consolidate its position as the UK's leading plastic paint container manufacturer with a number of

innovative product launches, most recently the first plastic paint cans to incorporate post-use recycled material, and oversee the establishment of first the Corby and then the Blackburn sites and their subsequent moves to full autonomy within the RPC Group. He was also a key figure in both the original RPC management buyout of 1991 and the Company's subsequent stock market flotation last year.

"Mike has made an enormous contribution to the RPC Group and his wealth of knowledge and experience has been an invaluable asset in particular during the exciting and challenging times of the past three years," comments Chief Executive Ron Marsh. "Everyone in the company wishes him a long, happy and prosperous retirement."

"Equally important, I am delighted that we have been able to fill the vacancies arising from Mike's retirement internally. Our policy has always been one of promotion from within whenever possible and the strength in depth and commitment of staff at all levels has allowed us to implement this."

"Philip Hilton has done an excellent job at Raunds, both building on successes in existing markets and developing new opportunities, as well as overseeing the introduction of polypropylene container manufacture at the site. Murray Stone also has made an outstanding contribution in his current role and richly deserves this advancement. I wish them both every success in their new roles."

The Total Paint Group - comprising leading industry names Johnstone's Paints, Manders and Windack - has confirmed RPC as its sole supplier for all its plastic container requirements. The three companies will be served by RPC's sites at Oakham and Blackburn, supplying Fabrics, Painters and 5 Range Containers.

The deal confirms RPC's status as the UK's leading supplier of plastic containers for the paint and surface coatings market.

"We have always enjoyed an excellent working relationship with RPC Containers," comments Bob Baguley, Buyer at Johnstone's Paints. "With any long-term order involving one supplier, the key criteria we are looking for are product quality, consistency and a high level of customer service. RPC is able to fulfil all these requirements and we look forward to a continuing successful association in the future."



THE RISE AND RISE OF PET

In extracts from an article prepared for World Plastics and Rubber Technology, RPC Blackburn's Sales and Marketing Manager Philip Jones looks at the success and popularity of PET.

A recent report from AMA Research found that the European market for PET packaging nearly doubled in the five years to 1992. Not surprisingly perhaps, food and drink packaging accounts for 95% of the blow moulded market with PET bottles being the largest sector. Another sector where PET is now also particularly strong - an area identified and developed by RPC Blackburn since the early 1990s - is large wide mouth jars for confectionery products or for catering size packs of sauces and mayonnaise.

These successes are an indication of the inroads which PET has made into what were once traditional strongholds for glass. Like other plastics, PET offers particular benefits in terms of its lightness in weight, easy handling properties and its high resistance to shattering - very strong selling points when packaging food and drink products.

PET also has a low oxygen transmission rate, thereby offering excellent barrier properties to help keep foods fresh.

In addition, a key reason for PET's success in markets previously dominated by glass is the material's excellent clarity and 'sparkle'. This is a vital feature in highly competitive markets such as food, drink and toiletries where purchasing decisions can be strongly influenced by overall appearance.

It is not surprising therefore that PET continues to expand into consumer markets. For example, several leading confectionery and snack brands now use PET for their Christmas jars as opposed to glass. Nevertheless, PET is also creating its own opportunities. Last year RPC Blackburn worked with KP Foods to produce the unique PET tube for KP's market-leading peanuts range, an important part of KP's initiative to reposition the peanut within the buoyant snack food market and encourage more impulse purchases.

Another new development from RPC is a squeeze PET bottle. Some coffee brands are also being packed in PET - initially catering sizes but the trend could well spread to retail packs. In addition, other markets such as toiletries and pharmaceuticals offer further excellent development opportunities.

Of course, the success of PET is not just the result of the material itself. To make the best use of any raw material also requires up-to-date knowledge and skill. PET jars may often look simple in shape but that belies the technical expertise required to make them efficiently, in large numbers, while maintaining their quality.



PET's quality appearance is a major benefit in competitive markets where purchasing decisions can be strongly influenced by overall appearance and where the visual impact of a product and its container can help to enhance or convey an image of quality.

Take for example the KP Nuts tube. Although the design is simple to look at and use, its size requires particular expertise to produce it on the scale required. Production of the neck has to be extremely precise to enable the easy fitting of an induction seal cap. Each mould also has to be accurately manufactured as the packs are fed on-line into a sleeving machine immediately after moulding.

RPC Blackburn has become the UK's leading producer of wide mouth PET jars. In achieving this position since the early 1990s we have invested some £3 million in the relevant machinery. Our machine specification also offers us the flexibility to design containers with neck diameters from as low as 28mm up to 140mm.

PET's injection stretch blowmoulding process is a four stage operation. Among the benefits of the process, the injection moulding of the neck enables it to be produced to high tolerances. Equally important, the subsequent stretch blowmoulding of the container ensures an even and consistent distribution of the material throughout. This helps to produce the clarity and sparkling properties of the finished container while also being particularly beneficial for the lightweighting of packs.

PET looks assured of continued success. Its versatility is likely to continue to open up new markets and applications while its quality appearance may also offer it further opportunities in more established markets. Certainly RPC Blackburn, as the UK's top supplier of wide mouth jars with a comprehensive range of containers and full CAD design back-up, is actively involved in the development of new areas and the consolidation and expansion of existing ones.

● RPC Blackburn's innovative custom-moulded PET tube for KP Nuts has won a Silver Star in the Institute of Packaging's recently-announced Starpack Awards.

Edited by
Ken Goddard



Worldwide News

Issue No. 10

INDUSTRY ON THE MOVE

Alan Barrell - Group Managing Director

Industrial innovation and change are part of our daily lives. The speed of change is increasing. Manufacturing industry operates under ever-growing pressure with companies competing in global markets. Environmental pressures, regulatory demands and social policies are generating new requirements, and we need to work ever harder to gain efficiency and keep production costs under control.

In the fields of product identification, data capture and the use of information technology to control manufacturing, packaging and distribution operations, the Willett company continues to work hard to shape itself for an uncertain and ever-changing future so we can continue to meet the needs of you, our customers.

Develop distribution networks

Some parts of the world (for example, the Asia Pacific region and South America) are growing industrially much more rapidly than others. We are planning, therefore, not only to cope with supporting customers worldwide needing coding, marking and labelling equipment and all of the systems and supplies that go with them, but also to develop our own company's distribution networks rapidly in order to cover all of the fast growing industrial countries of the world.

The product range continues to evolve producing the broadest catalogue of industrial ink jet printers, a growing array of labelling systems and electronic foil printers. There is also a heightened focus on the development of products and activities to satisfy the growing need for consumable industrial supplies. Significant investments are being made to make available complete systems as the manufacturing world seeks to automate and mechanise even more.

Meaningful working partnerships

All of this requires that we reshape our organisation to cope with the change and to run efficiently to meet the existing requirements of our customers. Our plans seek to make the Willett company capable of forming closer and more meaningful working partnerships with industrial customers around the world.

We invite all readers with problems or challenges to tackle in the fields of industrial coding, marking, labelling,

data capture and systems integration to call on us and to provide the opportunity for us to tell you more about the services we feel able to offer as a partner helping your business to run more effectively.



product identification and systems integration
The Willett extended logo has already been changed to incorporate the growing range of products Willett offers.

WILLETT WINS SECOND QUEEN'S AWARD FOR EXPORT ACHIEVEMENT

Willett has been awarded The Queen's Award for Export Achievement 1994 following initial success in 1989 when Willett won the same award.

Over 90% of Willett's UK manufacturing is exported to over 70 countries worldwide. Willett's policy of setting up its own sales organisation places the company in a

Continued on Page 2



The team at Willett in Corby celebrate a second Queen's Award for Exports.

Willett
THE WORLD'S
CODING COMPANY

EGGVERTISING GOES AHEAD IN BRITAIN

Millions of eggs carrying advertisements for BT, the British telecommunications company, are now in stores throughout the UK, thanks to Willett technology and a ruling by the EU that advertising on eggs could go ahead in Britain.

Eggvert Ltd, the company which developed the new advertising medium, joined forces with Willett to produce a suitable system for printing messages and logos onto eggs following Willett's pioneering work on inks suitable for printing directly onto foodstuffs.

Using Willett's small character ink jet printers, special printing systems, known as EggSignia, were installed on egg grading and packing lines at 25 packing stations used by Britain's leading egg suppliers. Willett printers were selected, as they operate at high speed and do not slow down the packing operation in any way.

The advertisements on the eggs are promoting new, lower charges for the use of telephones in the morning. Eggs are seen as the ideal medium for getting the message across, as they are primarily a breakfast food.

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Willett technology is ready to meet future challenges.

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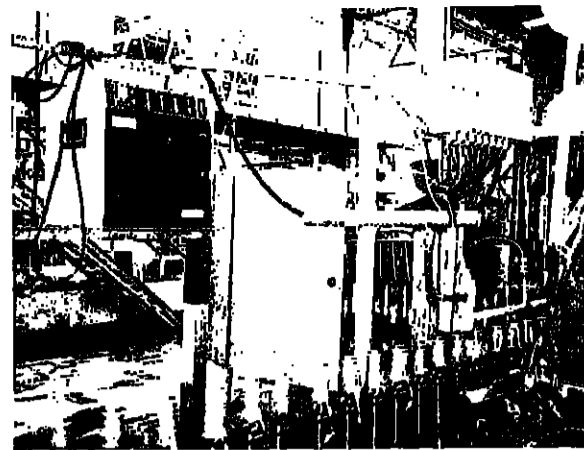
If you would like further information about any of the products featured here, please contact the relevant sales department at the addresses below or for a copy of our company brochure, contact Corinne Lawrence at our Raunds factory.

BREWING GROUP CHOOSES WILLETT

Willett distributor Servicios de Codificación y Controles in Colombia has secured an order for 26 Willett small character ink jet printers from Bavaria Brewery, the fifth largest brewing group in the world. As well as plants in Spain, Portugal and Ecuador, Bavaria has 16 plants in Colombia.

The Willett ink jet printers are being installed at half of the plants, which between them have 52 bottling lines, some running at 2000 bottles a minute. They are to be used to print a two line code on the tops of the bottles.

The company won the order against stiff competition, due to the lower running costs and superior back-up available for the Willett equipment.



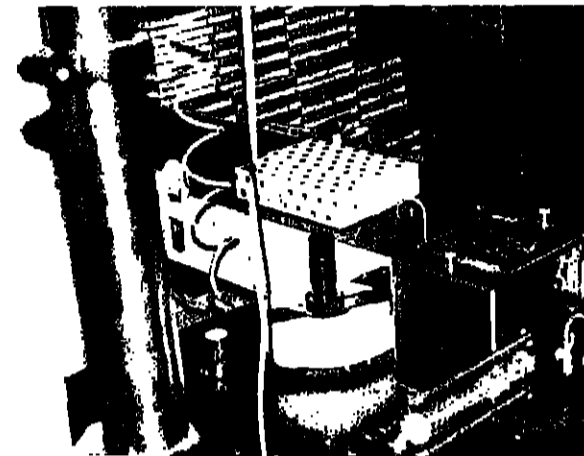
Willett ink jet printers are used on the high speed lines at the Bavaria Brewery plants.

MUSIC DISTRIBUTOR ADOPTS BAR CODING

A system involving four Willett printer/applicators and eight bar code readers has been installed in the plant of a Spanish music club to automate the mailing of records, tapes and CDs to club members.

Planeta de Agostini is the biggest company of its kind in Spain and the third largest in Europe. Every day thousands of packages are processed for mailing to members all over Spain. Now the sorting of the packages is carried out automatically by using bar coded labels.

As they enter the first part of the system all packages have a 2 of 5 bar code label applied to them by a Willett printer/applicator. This code contains details of the pack contents and the address of the customer. Further down the line the code is scanned and the information passed to a PC which feeds further details to a second Willett printer/applicator. This unit prints a larger label carrying three 2 of 5 bar codes plus the customer address and a post office stamp. This label is then scanned and the parcel is routed automatically to the correct postal sack for the region in which the customer is located.



Using bar codes all parcels are routed to the correct mail bag.

SECOND QUEEN'S AWARD

Continued from Page 1

stronger position to control its own aftermarket, guarantee its own reputation, and gain closer contact with customers and ever changing market needs. The company has benefitted from feedback from its sales companies and distributor partners which has assisted development of new products and product enhancements, whilst meeting European, North American and Japanese safety and performance standards.

Solid international operation

Commenting on The Queen's Award, Allan Willett said, "By combining our high tech products with dynamic marketing, we have built a solid, medium-sized international operation with a turnover in excess of £50 million, employing 600 people worldwide. I attribute our success to our controlling the quality of our products and services through our own worldwide distribution network."

"Today, the information technology revolution means

instant communications and the ability for almost anything to be made anywhere. As the only manufacturer and supplier of coding, labelling and bar code printing products with such a worldwide network of our own sales companies and distributors, Willett is at the forefront of this revolution."

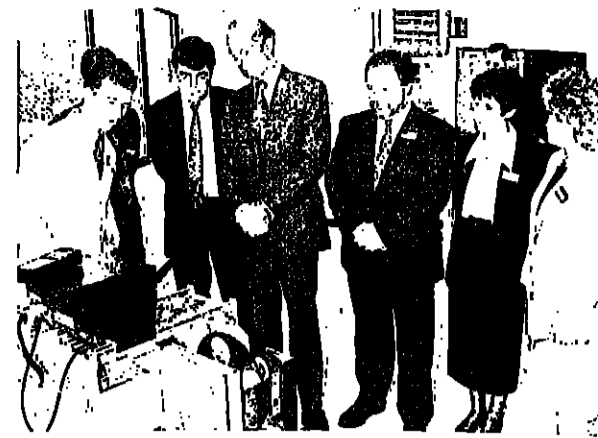
New Sales Office for Willett in Finland

Willett has expanded its sales operation in Finland, through Willett OY, a wholly owned subsidiary of Willett International.

The General Manager of the new office will be Kati Lehmonen. Kati has considerable experience in business management in Finland and overseas.

Joining Kati will be Benita Trog and Harri Haapalainen, who most people will know for their work with the previous distributor OY Mark-Tech AB.

Benita will take up the position of Sales Administrator, and Harri will look after service. We wish them all every success for the future.



ROYAL VISITOR AT HEADQUARTERS

His Royal Highness the Duke of Kent paid a visit to the Willett Headquarters at Corby recently. He toured the manufacturing facilities and was shown a number of recent developments from Willett including the new programmable overprinter which is being demonstrated in our photograph.



The Willett 2760 adds clear information to nut and sultana packs.

PRINTER SMARTENS UP NUT PACKS

The Willett 2760 programmable overprinter has been selected by an Austrian company to replace hot foil printing.

A.B. Lilabadi packs, pastiches and biscuits for sale throughout Europe, and, until recently, all the packs were marked with a basic code using hot foil printing. Now Lilabadi has replaced these codes with Willett 2760 printers and is not only able to print much clearer codes carrying more information but is able to include variable information.

The Willett 2760s are mounted on the company's form, fill, seal machines which operate at up to 75 packs a minute. The codes now used on the packs contain a mixture of alphanumeric and bar coded information as well as a logo.

statistics. Statistics are used because the very definition of random vibration says we cannot predict what will be the exact input at any given point in time. Thus, SEA has been developed to give a statistical basis to what inputs are likely to be imparted to the product or package system as well as determine the likely response of the product to these inputs. Note that random vibration can affect the product regardless of whether it is packaged or in shipment or out of package and operating in its intended end-use environment.

Susceptible to fatigue

The study of vibration is critical to electro-mechanical products since these products are extremely susceptible to fatiguing and outright failure due to accumulation of stresses caused from vibration. An example of how this works is known to everyone: the bending of wire back and forth until it snaps in two. In distribution shipments or end-use operations exposed to vibration the flexing of the electrical components inside the product can cause the same effect, the failure of the component due to flexural stresses.



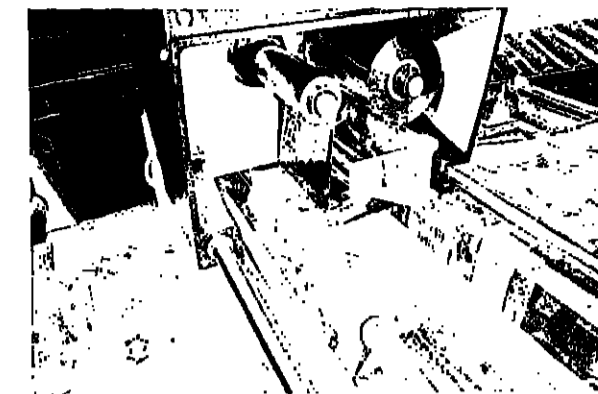
Willett Scholar Robert Clarke

TRIALS WITH WILLETT OVERPRINTER LEAD TO SUCCESSFUL CONCLUSION

Following successful trials in a full production situation, confectionery manufacturer Craven Sweetmate Ltd has purchased two of the Willett 2760 programmable electronic overprinters launched last year.

Craven Sweetmate needs to add best before and use by dates as well as production information to its products. Previously this was carried out as an off-line operation through the use of labels applied by a hand gun. The Willett 2760 enables the information to be added to the packaging material itself immediately before the bags are formed and filled. The information can be changed in an instant as the packaging machines are running.

Craven Sweetmate has a great many short runs of product destined for many different markets and the use of the Willett 2760 has not only improved the appearance of the packs but considerably reduced downtime on the high speed lines on which the sweets are packed.



The packaging material is coded immediately before being formed into bags.

A NEW ERA FOR BUSINESS IN LATIN AMERICA

Miguel Jover - Regional
Sales Manager
The Americas



GROWTH IN THE LATIN AMERICAN MARKET

Now that military forces are no longer in power and terrorism is decreasing substantially, democracy is being implemented everywhere. This initial political stability has created more confidence throughout Latin America to invest and led to a growth in business.

In the last two years, internal demand and overseas exports have grown. In consequence the need to mark, code and label has also grown. Naturally these factors are very positive for Willett because it gives us greater opportunities and it is our job to find them and profit from them.

RECENT PROGRESS

To be able to reach the entire market, Willett started to look for new representatives in each one of the Latin American countries. Today this has been achieved and we have distributors in every country. All of whom are

active and growing. Argentina, Colombia, Mexico and Venezuela are countries where our representatives have already made significant improvements and progress with Willett products.

It is also rewarding to note that a good atmosphere and relationship exists between the distributors and Willett. One could use the term "family".

THE FUTURE

To face the growing needs of business, Willett has been making changes to produce a more effective organisation. There are still great opportunities for progress in Latin America but there is no doubt that the first steps have been in the right direction. Today this organisation is reflected in our sales.

There is also no doubt that we have vastly improved in presenting ourselves as a coding company, not just as an ink jet company. We are opening doors that in the past were difficult. Partnerships with label converters and OEMs are more and more frequent.

CONCLUSION

The market is growing. There is a solid and dynamic structure in place to face markets, the products are good and Willett is a company that is investing more and more in technical improvements and new products. From our point of view all these factors combine to produce a good formula for success.

WINE CASE IDENTIFIED AUTOMATICALLY

With its wine being sold under thousands of brand names in many different countries, Chilean wine producer Concha-y-Toros was eager to find a way of correctly identifying the cases of wine automatically.

At the same time the company needed to print a batch number onto each individual bottle of wine and ensure the correct product is packed into each outer case, despite the thousands of brand names and sub-brand names under which the wine is sold. Concha-y-Toros also wanted

to print its own world famous logo on every case.

Through its Chilean joint venture company in Santiago, Willett was able to step in with the perfect solution in the form of the Willett 3170/900 ink jet printer. The 3170/900 is capable of printing large amounts of variable information and has the ability to accept information from other equipment.

Linked to coding unit

Working with the engineers at Concha-y-Toros, the Willett team has been able to link the Willett 3170/900 to the coding unit marking every bottle with a code. This ensures that the cases into which the bottles are packed always receive the same code as the bottles. In addition, the cases are printed with the correct logo, the brand name and the wine type.



Concha-y-Toros produces thousands of differently labelled wines and all the cases are correctly identified thanks to Willett.



The Willett ink jet printer was originally installed to code Tia Maria ice cream tubs.

SPECIALITY ICES CODED CLEARLY

A Willett small character ink jet printer installed by ice cream manufacturer Jaconelli Ice Cream has proved so versatile it is being used to tackle more tasks than originally intended.

Jaconelli Ice Cream, a family firm based in Scarborough in the North of England, produces speciality ice cream. The Willett ink jet printer was originally installed to add a five digit best before and lot code to the rim of plastic tubs of Tia Maria liqueur ice cream.

The printer proved so successful that, as Jaconelli became more familiar with its capabilities, its use was extended. Now it is used to code a wide range of products, including bombes, ice cream truffles, cassata and real fruit ice cream.

As well as coding up to 9,000 tubs of ice cream a day, the Willett ink jet printer is also now used to add information to 30,000 individual portions as well as outer cartons holding products.

INK JET OVERCOMES CODING PROBLEM ON CONDUITS

Codes, some up to 100 characters in length, are being added to a wide range of electrical conduit, trunkings and associated accessories manufactured by Mita (UK) Ltd using Willett small character ink jet printers.

The products are sold within the UK and exported to all parts of the world. The uses range from domestic and light industrial to heavy duty applications in the chemical and oil industries. Information applied to the products includes reference numbers, dimensions, the company name, country of manufacture and BS5750 accreditation.

Mita had tried several ways of applying this information including hot foil printing, thermal transfer printing, self-adhesive labelling and ink jet printing using equipment from rival companies. None met Mita's requirements exactly until Willett's small character ink jet printers were tried. These not only gave the quality of print and printing speed required but proved economical to run as well.

Willett printers have now been installed on five of the lines at Mita's plant in North Wales along with special Willett designed software to control the coding operation.

STATISTICAL ENERGY ANALYSIS

What does a rocket launch have to do with protective packaging? The connection is SEA or Statistical Energy Analysis, something used by engineers for the last 20 years to measure the effects of impact and vibration on many types of structures.

SEA was first developed to study and measure the noise and vibratory motion of payloads during rocket launches. A model was developed to simulate a deviation of what is called the transport theory. It is modelling which looks at the input, throughput and output of energy into a given subsystem.

Willett Scholar Robert Clarke has been studying SEA at Oxford University under Dr Andrew J Keane in what is believed to be the first study to apply SEA to packaging. Clarke has been involved with vibration testing in the United States and is a graduate of Michigan State University's School of Packaging. However it was the Willett Scholarship which gave him the chance to study at St Catherine's College, Oxford, where he first encountered SEA. Most of the work is still theoretical at this point but he intends to show that SEA has practical applications and believes it could have monumental consequences for the packaging industry and the way goods are packaged to prevent damage during transportation.

Here ROBERT CLARKE explains the theory behind SEA and how it can be used to the advantage of the packaging industry.

The study of damage is about energy, since without some form of energy flowing into a product there can be no damage. This energy often takes the form of shocks or vibration, and, if it is not guarded against, it can result in a pile of expensive junk. While energy can take other forms, these two are given the most importance for evaluating the inherent ruggedness (or weakness) of any given product and its package system.

Most people think of energy as a combination of shocks and vibratory inputs, and this is entirely right, though, in reality, each is a form of energy in its own right. In shock, designers need to be concerned with the magnitude and shape of the shock pulse as well as the associated velocity change. The velocity change is often considered a measure of the energy content of the pulse of Power Spectral Density (PSD).

Proper protection level

Exposure of a product to these input energies helps determine the relative level of fragility which is needed to develop a package system that gives the proper protection level at the lowest cost while considering environmental constraints at the same time. As you can imagine, this is not always an easy thing to do.

The study of electro-mechanical product design and the proper packaging must incorporate these concepts of energy. A new way to study the effects of vibration energy is to apply Statistical Energy Analysis (SEA) to the product and package system. SEA is a means to predict what will happen to a product when it is exposed to some level of random vibration input.

Since we have discussed why the energy analysis is important, we should also explain why we need to include

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Dairy trolley loaders: the way forward



GBE Lerner Burgess TL2 trolley loader

The steady decline in glass and cartons for milk packaging and the dramatic rise in plastics bottles has meant the dairies have had to install new end of line machinery.

Since the roll containers and the chilled display units for milk in supermarkets were originally sized to accept gable top milk cartons 40 to a shelf in an 8 x 5 configuration, retailers have demanded an automatic method of loading the hinged front shelved roll containers so that they can simply be wheeled into chilled display units.

However, as cartons still dominate, the supermarkets have been reluctant to change either trolleys or modify shelving to cater for the dimension of the larger plastics containers.

As a result, end of line machinery manufacturer, GBE Lerner Burgess, has had very strict parameters in which to work to design new trolley loaders for dairies.

Plastics milk containers are sized to fit into the pocket of a fridge door, but only the six pint bottle can be collated in a straight forward 4 x 3 configuration. The four pint container needs to be loaded 19 bottles to a layer: 4 x 4 and a fifth row of three bottles sideways on. This posed a number of problems. But by creating five lane dividers and placing one row sideways on, these have been overcome.

The three litre container needs to be loaded 4 x 3 with a further sideways row of two. To ensure stability during cage loading and in-store off-loading, the cross row of bottles cannot be placed at the front or back of the collation.

Bottles enter the GBE Lerner Burgess TL2 roll container trolley loader in a single row after passing through the labeller, handle and side leading and when a sideways row is required are split into five lanes.

At Dairy Crest, Fenstanton, the roll container is loaded through the front. Therefore to achieve the correct facing, the entire collation of bottles is taken on a turntable and rotated 180deg before entering the container.

To date the company has installed six semi-automatic trolley loaders and two fully automatic trolley loaders at Express Dairies in Ruislip, which is the UK's first fully automated dairy.

first station. As the container descends, the guillotine back is secured, which allows the bottles to move in. The container then slides to the loading point where it can be secured. Completed roll containers then pass to a third station where they exit onto a conveyor that carries them into an automated cold store.

Three other machines are also on order, another fully automatic machine and the first GBE two-pint plastics bottle trolley loader at Woodgate Dairy, reflecting the incursion of polybottles into cartonboard's traditional two-pint milk market in supermarkets (see PN March 1994).

Typically the TL2 operates at speeds of 160 bottles a minute

The proliferation of plastics packaging in the dairy market has led to new end of line machinery being required. Camila Reed reports on GBE Lerner Burgess' custom made trolley loaders being installed at dairies around the country.

618538) tells PN.

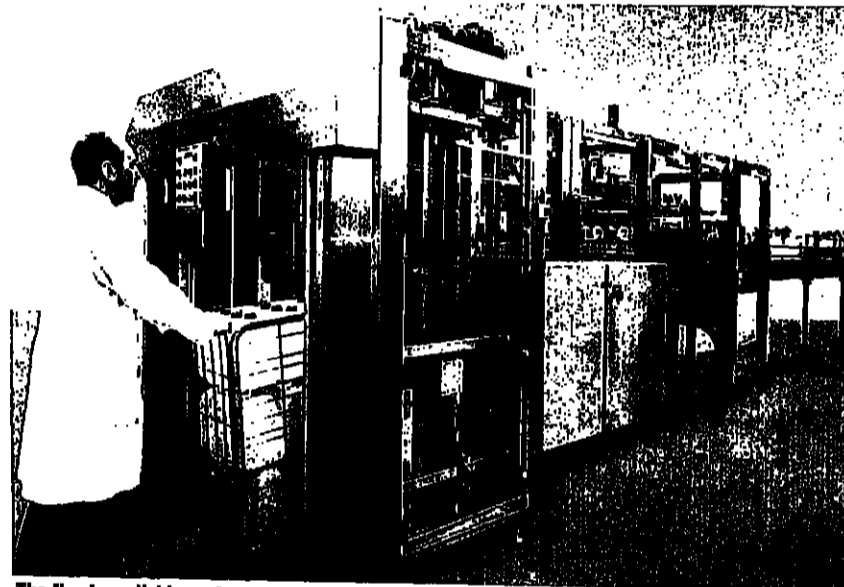
A decision by some retailers to specify polybottles for the packaging of two-pint containers could double the number of polybottles in use to around 500 million a year.

The packaging manager of a leading supermarket tells PN that he sees all two-pints eventually being packaged in polybottles. "There is no advantage in polybottles over cartonboard or vice versa. However, people are converting because of the cost involved."

Mr Goldsborough of GBE says the machine is cost-effective and less labour intensive. Using this machine at dairies only three operators are needed instead of six or eight people. It also takes away health problems that can go with heavy and continuous lifting.

Dairy Crest now has three polybottle lines and two cartonlines, and uses the Lerner Burgess machine for four pints mainly in trolleys either three or four stacks high.

For further information K7 129 Call for details 0839 772268



The five lane dividers place one row sideways to achieve a collation of 19

At Express Dairies in Ruislip, the trolley handling system uses roll containers with sliding guillotine back through which the bottles are loaded, removing the need to turn the collation 180deg.

Empty roll containers are picked up by a robotic arm and loaded vertically into the

on four pints, 90 bottles a minute on six pints and 100 bottles a minute on three litres. Speeds of up to 250 a minute are expected for the two-pint container machine, Steve Goldsborough sales and marketing manager at GBE (Fleming Road, Hinckley, Leics LE10 3DU - tel: 0455 613888, fax:

Bottle shape change challenge

Changes to the basic shape of a primary pack can have wide implications for the final stages of the packing line, as demonstrated by solutions provided by Europack for pharmaceutical manufacturer Parke Davis.

When Listerine antiseptic mouthwash was repackaged in oval section bottles there were space saving advantages for the manufacturer, but also special challenges for end of line at its factory at Pontypool, Gwent.

Collation was all the more important because the bottles had to be correctly orientated in the trays. The existing line comprised a tray erector, tray loader and shrinkwrapper. Europack's upgrade to the line included lane dividing, a new tray loader and a wraparound tray erector.

Bottle sizes between 200 and 600ml can be handled on the line, which runs at speeds of up to 200 a minute.

"We have adopted Europack because their machines are built to do the job, their appearance matches the high standards of a pharmaceutical environment, and



The Europack line can handle bottles of between 200 and 600ml

we have excellent relations between the company's service engineers and our own staff," says Ben Davies, pharmaceutical operations manager at Parke Davis.

With the upgraded line, the lane divider feeds the bottles from the infeed into appropriate orientation and collations rather than letting them roll round each other as with

round bottles, says Europack (Common Lane North, Beccles, Suffolk NR34 9BP - tel: 0502 716540, fax: 716814).

Rather than adapting the previous tray loader, which would have involved a costly shutdown, Parke Davis opted for a more versatile system which was installed alongside it.

One of the strengths of the system is the choices it offers at the palletising stage. Shrinkwrapped packs can go straight to the palletiser - not supplied by Europack - or be grouped for the formation of larger wraparound trays first. Hand palletising is another option.

The modified line was tested at Europack and then assembled and tested on site. Parke Davis has used Europack as its principle supplier of end of line machinery since 1990, when it installed the original end of line packing. The manufacturer singles out Europack's reliability of service and technical problem-solving skill as particular strengths.

For further information K7 104 Call for details 0839 772268

Shrinkwrapper avoids side weld

Economy on film and the lack of an unsightly side weld on the wrap are benefits of the latest

shrinkwrapper from BVM, says UK and Ireland distribu-

tor WLT Ltd. Running at speeds of up to 80 packs a minute, the Speedmaster from German manufacturer BVM is ideal for shrinkwrapping the sort of multipacks destined for discount supermarkets and cash and carries.

There is no sealing bar, but sensors monitor the length of film before it is cut and folded underneath the collation prior to shrinkwrapping. This technique

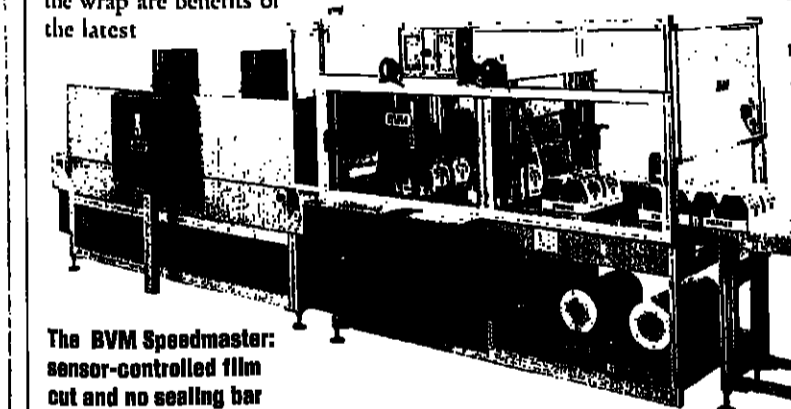
means that there is no side weld to obscure the contents and users can make savings on film.

There can also be a saving on tray materials with this system, through the use of low-wall trays and additional advantages of a firmly held pack.

Controls on the wrapper, which can be used for multipacks of bottles, cans or jars, can be manual or motorised, says the distributor (250 Thornton Road, Bradford, W Yorks - tel: 0274 391538, fax: 308953). Double or triple deck configurations up to 350mm high within a film width of 600mm can be wrapped.

For further information K7 105 Call for details 0839 772268

The BVM Speedmaster: sensor-controlled film cut and no sealing bar

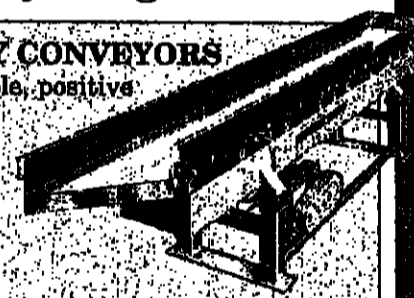


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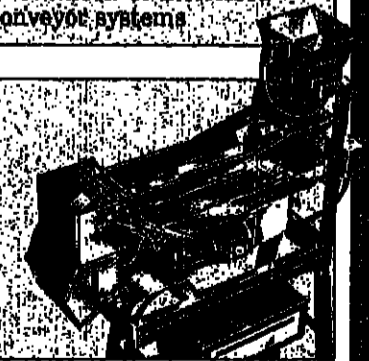


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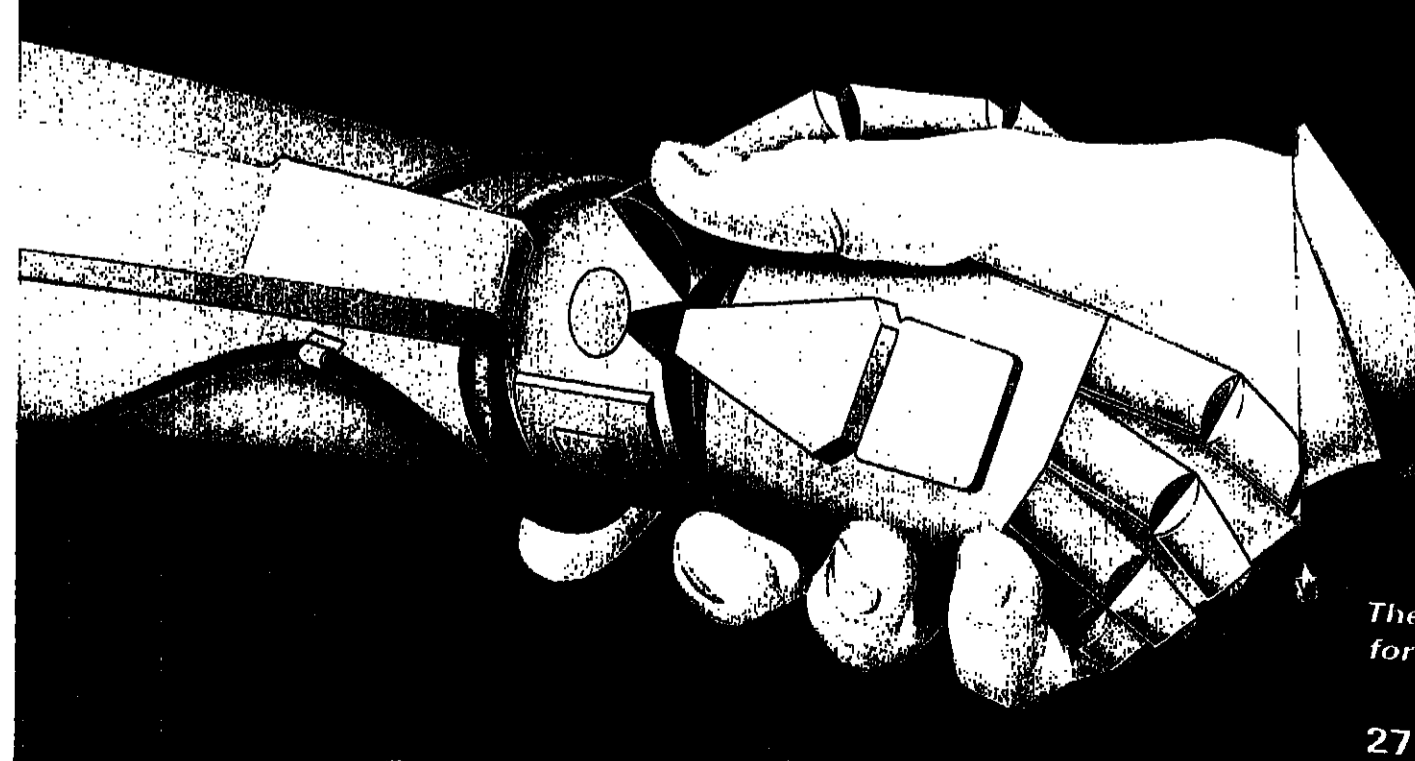
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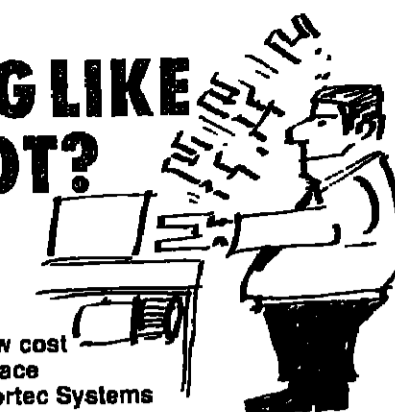
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Layer trays give palletiser savings

A palletising system which uses layer trays rather than traditional cases is said to give savings of up to 50 per cent on corrugated board while stabilising the load.

Italian manufacturer Gruppo Elettric 80 has developed the robotic Pallet Pak system for regular shaped product. It places an oversized pad between pallet layers, folds up the sides and glues the corners with hot melt adhesive.

Pneumatic fingers fold up

the pre-creased board around the product - wrapped tissues, sugar, flour and cartons, for example - which is typically loaded in collations of 5 x 8, with pallet patterns varying according to the needs of the particular product. When the sequence of layers is complete, the finished pallet can be stretchwrapped for protection and further stability.

Different pallet sizes including the standard Europallet can be handled by

the system, which will place and glue layer pad trays with sides between 40 and 200mm high. One layer can be formed on average every minute. Format change is automatic.

When standard palletisation is required, the forming frame can be swung away on pneumatic arms, according to the company's UK agent, Noem Packaging Technology (Millshaw Park Avenue, Leeds LS11 0LR - tel: 0532 779504, fax: 780557).

Full programming facilities and axis control operate through a Siemens plc, with the ability to create layer patterns as required.

For further information K7-126 Call for details 0838 772268

U-cards reduce material needs

As part of a drive to reduce packaging materials, pharmaceuticals company Thornton & Ross has moved from cartons to packing its bottled product on stretchbanded U-cards.

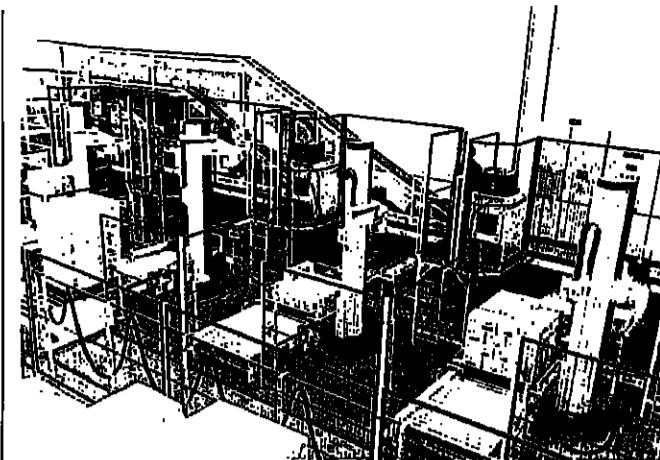
Complementing a lightweight version of the standard round bottle used for almost all its liquid products, the company set out to find an end of line system which minimised material, ensured adequate flexibility



One of the four Skinetta Kiener stretchbanders

between products and provided a stable, goodlooking pack.

For further information K7-125 Call for details 0838 772268



Each of the palletisers will accept at least seven cases a minute

Grouping for spreads

Conveying and grouping systems for Dairy Crest's spreads and butter have been installed by Dunn Systems, with a variety of case sizes and products channelled towards five palletising stations, four of them using robots.

Tubs of product are packed into cases of between five and 12 kg, and conveyed along high level conveyors before being transferred to an accumulating roller conveyor.

Along seven lines, cases are accumulated into groupings of the required number for entry into the cooler, and transported in counted batches of similar product on a special conveyor.

In the event of a breakdown on the cooler infeed, cases are taken down an alternative route to ground level.

Barcodes on each case are scanned before they enter the cooler, determining how each pack is treated at this stage and where it is sent afterwards.

The five conveyors after the cooler take product to one of the four robot palletisers or a hand palletising station. The Staubli RS 154 series robots will palletise a given product until no more reaches it on the infeed, when it will switch over to another. Each palletiser will accept at least seven cases a minute. While it has a small footprint, the four-axis system has a reach of 1500mm and can lift 40kg. (Dunn is at Smisby Road, Ashby de la Zouch, Leicestershire LE65 2UR - tel: 0530 414444, fax: 411110).

For further information K7-124 Call for details 0838 772268

BRIEFLY

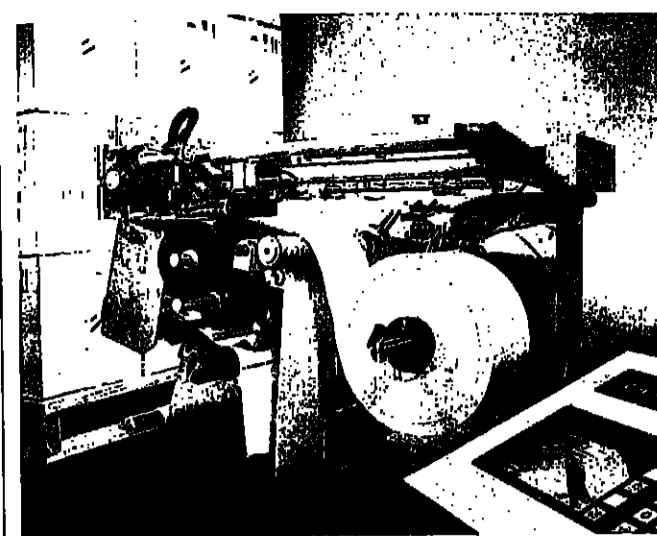
GKN CHEP LTD (0932 860085) will now handle GE Plastics' pool of returnable plastics lugs and pallets. The Docon lugs and Gopal pallet were developed as returnable alternatives to GE's one-way systems.

AIR PILLOWS can be produced on demand and used for damage at a lower cost than other cushioning with the Airfill 1200 system from Amesse Services (0203 367984). The pillows can be kept in a string if preferred.

WIGGINS TEAPE Packaging (0256 723000) is joining forces with Aetna UK to advise on stretchwrapping machinery as well as film. The company will also now supply automatic, semi-automatic and manual strapping equipment to complement its materials stocks.

CORRUGATED CASES are now available in 30 different sizes from A1 Packagings Ltd (071-987 6361) up to 610mm cubed in single or double wall versions. A1 also supplies the Rapidapak transit system.

AN AUTOMATED pallet production system from Duo-Fast Ltd (0932 346699) means that productivity can be doubled, with the potential for switching production from one product to another. Worked angles can be built in to suit the operator.



Prestek's Cimpak pallet labeller: the head tilts on all axes

Labeller handles uneven surfaces

Improvements to the Cimpak pallet labelling machine from Prestek mean that the system can attach labels securely even when the load surface is uneven.

With a floating pad on the applicator, the head tilts on all axes and will ensure that the label adheres to an uneven surface.

Checking of the barcode on labels applied is also built into the system. This prevents mislabelling of pallet loads, with the scanner providing information to compare with details held in the unit's memory. Printing, applying and scanning

can take place in a single operation, says the company.

If there is a discrepancy, the scanner signals to the applicator to apply another label before the pallet is allowed to move on down the line.

The PARMX control system used on the Cimpak labeller, and also on the Cimjet print and apply labeller for traded units, can build up and then store a label image including barcodes while the previous label is being printed. This facility dramatically cuts the time the printer is idle, and enables it to reach speeds of

250mm a second, labelling up to four pallets a minute.

To cater for different user needs, the design of the system includes a choice of applicator modules to be added to the standard labelling head.

Options include single or twin axis heads, if labels are required on adjacent sides of the load. This is a more reliable system than turntables or wraparound, says Prestek (Highfields Science Park, University Boulevard, Nottingham - tel: 0602 253220, fax: 430153).

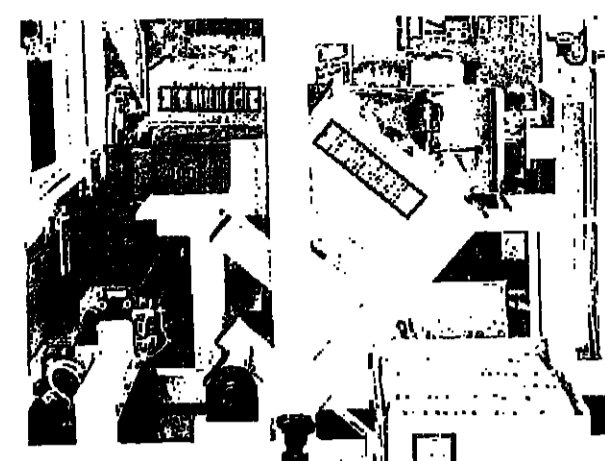
Data for hundreds of label designs can be held in memory and accessed by a single code entered on the keypad. Alternatively, the labeller can be linked to a central computer database. Barcode label images can be generated using Prestek's own Composer software.

For further information K7-126 Call for details 0838 772268

Compact side loading sleever

Space constraints on a food manufacturer's site led Endoline Machinery to develop an especially compact automatic side loading sleeve packer, fitting within just 1.5m and adaptable as a casepacker.

With the boost to its machinery design capabilities from the acquisition of the team from Advanced Design Systems, Endoline engineered the equipment which collates, side loads,



The equipment side loads and rotates the load through 90deg

rotates the load through 90deg and ejects it for shrinkwrapping. The end user had found it difficult identifying a company

able to meet its requirements.

A low friction slat conveyor transfers product to the machine. Once on the dead plate, the collation activates the product position switch. Sleeves are extracted from the magazine and positively ejected.

The machine can also be adapted for casepacking, says Endoline (Stratton Business Park, London Road, Big-

gleswade - tel: 0767 316422, fax: 318033). Additional assemblies For further information K7-127 Call for details 0838 772268

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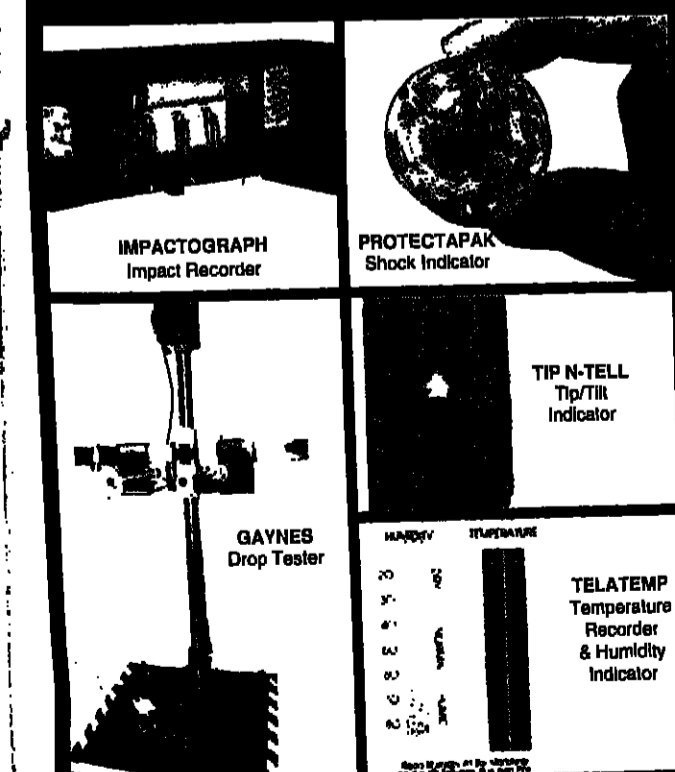


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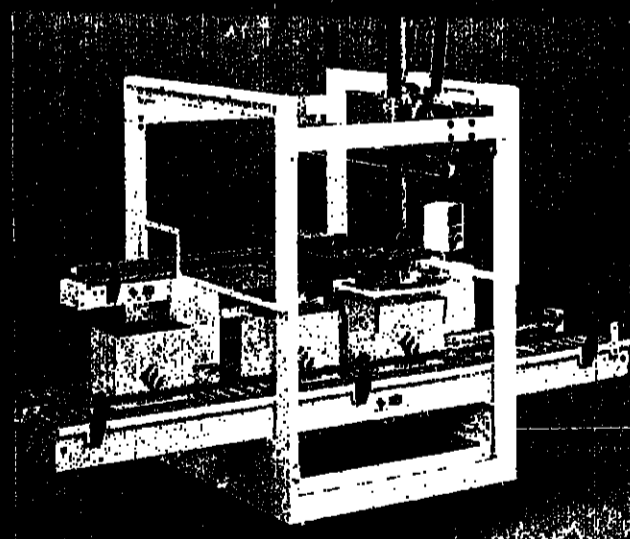
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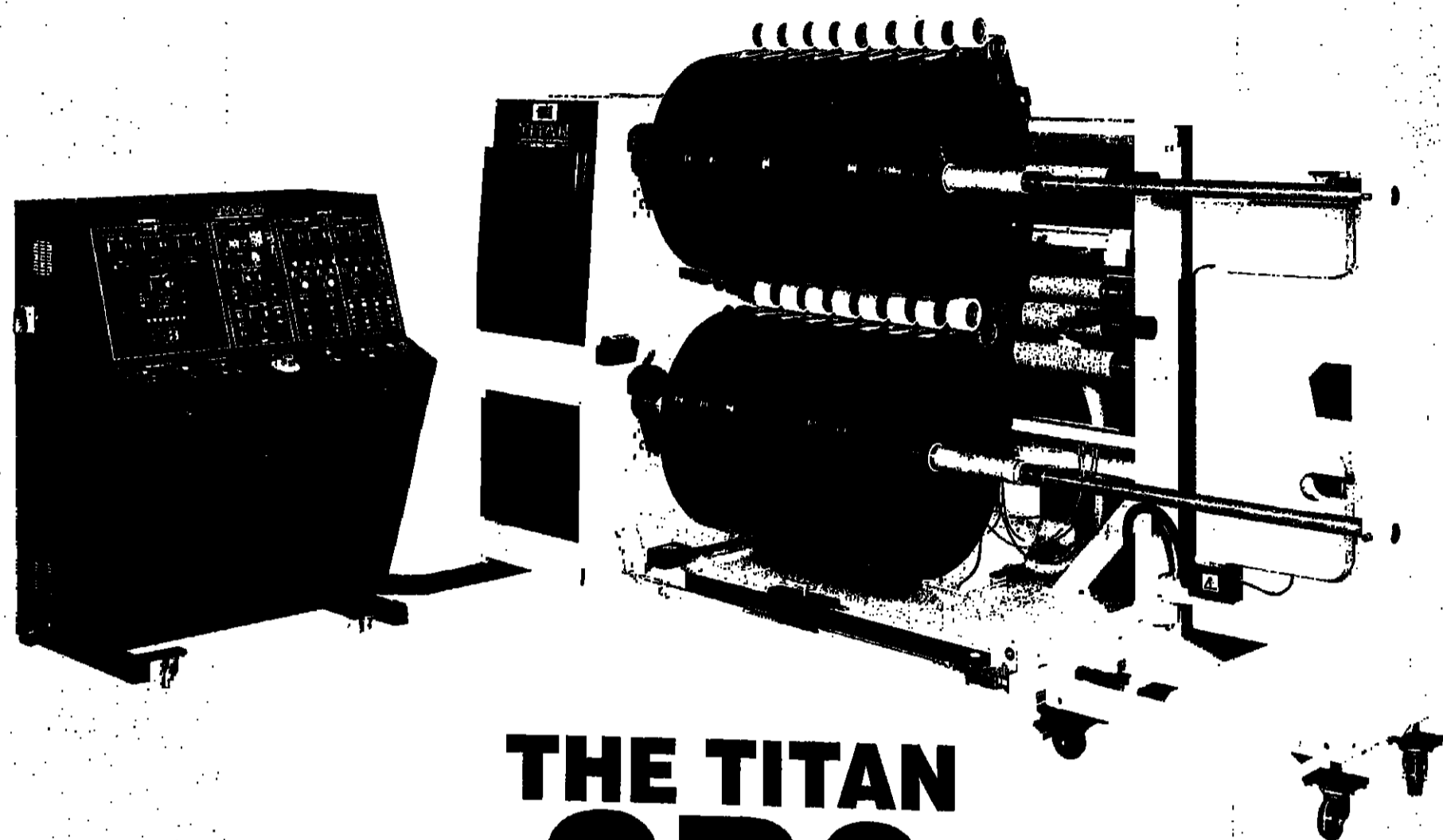
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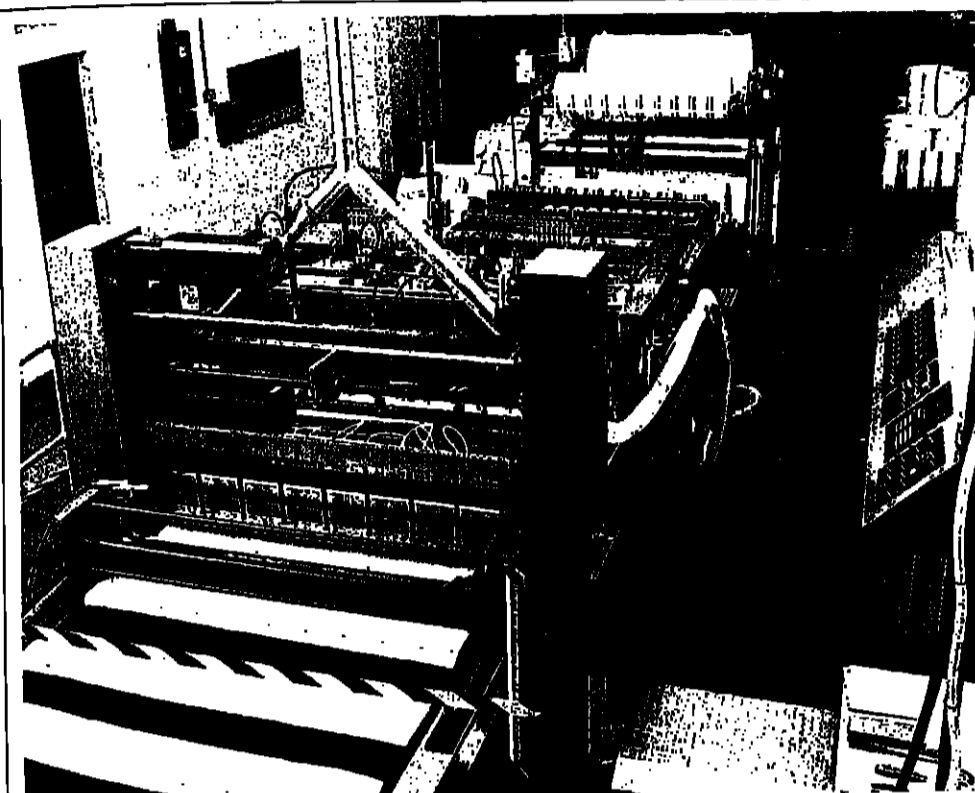
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The packing list envelope operation at Tenza Ltd produces up to 100,000 envelopes an hour

Envelopes at speed

A 50 per cent increase in manufacturing speed is reported by Tenza Ltd's packing list envelope operation following the installation of a GN Packaging Equipment 54P machine - the first in Europe.

Tighter controls are another feature of the system, which has doubled the processing width possible to 13 lanes maximum and is now fully operational at Tenza's Saxmundham factory. The machine can produce over 100,000 envelopes an hour.

Opted for wide web
Originally, Tenza had looked at a narrow web in-line printing and bagmaking system but concluded that, though high speed, the machine would not meet its requirements for sealing. Instead, the company opted for wide web conversion of the silicon coated paper and ldepe, which is preprinted on site.

In specifying the exact model of machine, Tenza says it learned from the experience of a

US competitor with GN (855 Britannia Road East, Mississauga, Ontario, Canada L4W 4T2 - tel: 010 1 905 6700383, fax: 6700358). This version is wider, has a crush cutting system, and uses more servo motors for tighter control.

The slitting system leaves a nick which holds the web together for easier handling and manual packing at the out-feed. A servo-driven batch stacker counts out a preset batch size and then holds for indexing to off-loading.

Access to the side sealers is said to be good, an important feature for changeover which Tenza carries out an average of two times a day. The company estimates that changeover time will be brought down from around an hour to half an hour over a few months. Setup is through a plc which sets sealing times, lengths and speeds and monitors production.

For further information K7 Call for details 0839 772268

Selection system suits the needs of six-colour presses

A six-colour selection and separation system has been developed by Pantone to take on the existing 'high fidelity' systems, which are less suitable for six-colour presses.

The Hexachrome system, which spans inks to separations and involve suppliers of proofing equipment and screening support, will aim to maximise the potential of six-colour presses. There will be a particular focus on packaging printers and prepress, Richard Herbert, vice president of the electronic colour systems division, tells CW.

"We asked, how can we create the ultimate hi-fi colour system?" explains Mr Herbert. Best results within a six-colour

range would, Pantone believes, be achieved by adding two colours - orange and green - to a modified CMYK. Together these give a larger gamut of colours than do existing seven colour high-fi models, says Mr Herbert. It also avoids the need for two-pass runs where companies do not use seven or eight-colour presses.

"More vivid rendition"

The system will satisfy demand for more vivid colour rendition, while results are achievable on current systems and presses. The system, which has been fully trialled with printers in the

US, is due to be available in the UK from October or November, says Pantone (115 Sandgate Road, Folkestone, Kent - tel: 0303 259959, fax: 259830).

Cross-referencing between one medium and another is now possible with special software developed by the company. Having evolved industry/medium-specific palettes, Pantone has recognised the need to cross-reference and find the closest match to given colours. Good or commercially acceptable matches and those which need checking are indicated on screen.

Cross platform support of Pantone's open colour environment (poe) has also been announced. Consistent colour from scanning to printing will be provided whether Windows 3.1 is being used on a pc, or ColorSync on a Macintosh.

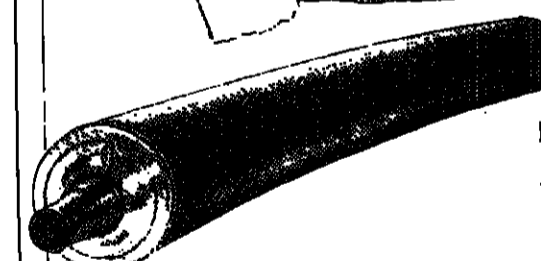
While the basic architecture supports RGB and CMYK colour models, extended models such as Hexachrome can be accommodated, says Pantone.

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BRIEFLY

A BPIF (British Printing Industries Federation) conference in association with the International Roll Label Federation (Finet) "Label 2000 - Self-Adhesive Converting Towards the Next Millennium" is to be held at the Grand Hotel, Brighton on 30 September 1994. For details contact Leigh Martine at the BPIF (071-242 8804).

"A CONVERTERS' GUIDE to the Environmental Aspects of Expanded Polystyrene" has been published by the BPF (British Plastics Federation, 071-457 5000). It explains terminology, grades, waste management options and legislation for the non-specialist. The BPF has also launched the UK business trends survey.

CORRUGATED BOARD SALES have grown at more than twice the rate of GDP - an average 4.7 per cent since 1985 - the British Fibreboard Packaging Association (0800 21002) reports. Corrugated has been less badly affected by the recession than other packaging materials, it says.

PIRA INTERNATIONAL has released the results of its study into the performance of coated and uncoated papers during various printing processes. Among the achievements of the project are indications of future trends in paper and print and the identification of relevant paper properties, says PIRA (0872 378161).

Flexo plates wash out in soft water

Flexced water wash-out flexo printing plates, that use a high technology material that washes out in soft water using a dedicated plate washer to reduce makeready time, are offered in the UK by Supratech Systems (Europe) Inc.

Flexced plate washers remove unexposed polymer from the plate during wash out and filters it from the wash after trapping non-hazardous waste and recycling most of the water. A quantity of fresh water is introduced during the wash out cycle.

Most conventional solvent

wash out plates require a minimum of two hours for solvent evaporation while Flexced is press ready within one hour in four steps.

It is also ozone resistant and can be used on water-based and solvent-based inks.

It is available in two types, blue and violet and in a range of thicknesses and sizes, says Tom Price, md of Supratech (Roundwood House, 134-136 Lane End Road, High Wycombe, Bucks HP12 4HX - tel: 0494 459444, fax: 461777).

Water is fed in at 40log C and has only one chemical

additive added to it - 1 percent of aluminium sulphate. Savings are thereby achieved through not having to dispose of solvents as well as providing obvious environmental benefits.

The Flexced material has the characteristics of rubber and is therefore easy to handle and has good ink acceptance.

Mr Price says the performance of Flexced is as good as a photopolymer but less impression is required and it has better solids area coverage.

It costs more than solvent plates but there are savings through time saved and reduced disposal costs. In addition, it is not odiferous, says the company. The biggest machine box at present is 75 cm. However 1m plus is planned in the US for later this year.

For further information K7 610 Call for details 0839 772268

Low-cost cup former

BMP 200, a flexible cup former for producing round, oval and rectangular shaped cups in a variety of paper grades was revealed at the show by German Hörauf GmbH.

It is a lower cost machine, says the company and is meant to be less sophisticated to give it wider market penetration. With a capacity of 160 to 200 cups a minute, adjustments on the machine are very fast.

Machines are supplied in the UK by Engelmann and Buckham Group (Buckham House, Lenten Street, Alton, Hampshire GU34 1HH - tel: 0420 82421, fax: 891193).

For further information K7 137 Call for details 0839 772268



The BMP 200 former produces cups in a variety of paper grades

Wax-based inks to aid sample cut-outs

Magic Printer, the first four colour printer to use wax-based inks for the printing of solid cardboard and corrugated board samples, made its debut at Papro from Lasercomb GmbH.

The machine is said to enable a company to present at the time of submitting a quotation sample cut-outs that already have the appearance of printed packaging, without the need to make up prints or plates.

"Converted into pixels"

The halftone pictures, logos and texts produced by the electronic image processing system are transferred by the Post-Script program to the flat-bed printer and are there converted into selectable macro pixels.

By using hot wax in place of liquid inks it is possible to print durable images directly onto all types of paper and other surfaces without the need for any special preparation.

"High speeds obtainable"

Four colours are applied in a similar manner to inkjet printing so that high speeds are obtainable. Costs are about 30 per cent less than ink-based, but the cost of the machine is higher than inkjet, says the company.

Each of the four colours is applied by way of 96 nozzles. Magic Printer has a resolution of 423 x 292dpi, says Lasercomb (Austrasse 29, D-73235 Weilheim/Teck, Germany - tel: 010 49 07023 70090, fax: 700944).

For further information K7 617 Call for details 0839 772268

Solventless laminator handles three layers

An undisclosed European converter has taken delivery of Polytype's first LF-Triplex solventless laminator, a 1280mm wide machine able to provide a three-layer construction in a single operation at speeds up to 400m a minute.

Developed initially with the coffee packaging and similar high barrier material in mind, usually with aluminium foil as the inner layer, the LF-Triplex machine has also attracted considerable attention from converters carrying out a mix of two-layer and three-layer solventless work, says Polytype (UK agent Edlon Machinery, Ashburton Grove, London N7 7AA - tel: 071-609 2266, fax: 071-700 4833).

Although the speed of a triplex system is an important

Finer control of coating weights, down to less than 1 micron, is marking the progress of coating and laminating machinery, particularly in solventless work.

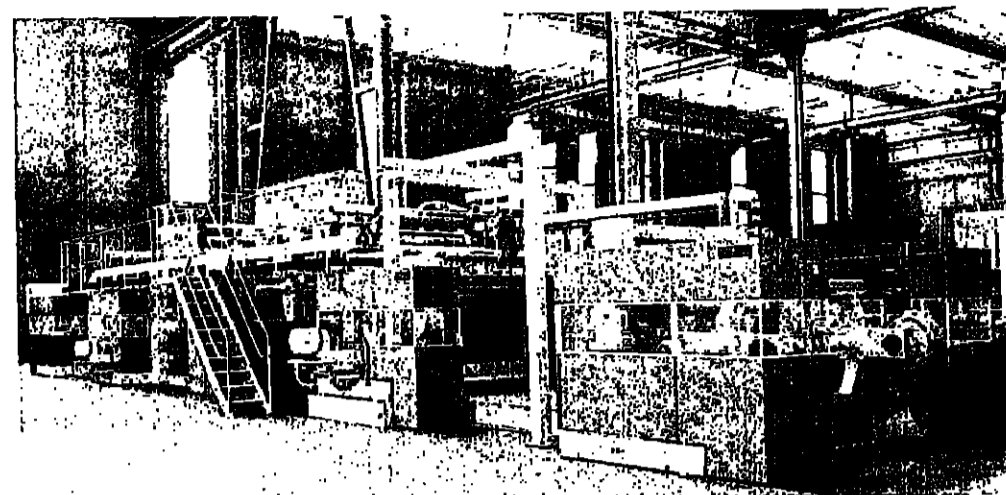
factor, compared with the alternative of two passes through a duplex machine, quality is equally significant, says Edlon technical director Lawrence Wild.

"First layer reactivated"

"When a triple laminate is produced, the first adhesive layer can be reactivated during a second pass through the drying tunnel, leading to 'tunnelling' or de-lamination," he explains.

"Using solventless adhesives eliminates this potential problem. However, to produce a triplex laminate in two passes on a duplex solventless machine involves considerable time, as the result of the rate of cure of these adhesives. They also have very low initial 'green' tack and therefore precise tension control in the substrates is important."

Polytype's design, which results in a machine occupying little more space than a duplex laminator, revolves around an integrated coating/laminating



Polytype's first LF-Triplex solventless laminator: a three-layer construction in a single operation

cylinder layout that offers continuous web contact between the cylinders, so allowing close control of tension. Any vapours from the two-part

polyurethane adhesives employed are removed by an extractor fan in the housing of the coating unit.

Polytype has also recently

completed a 2.4 metre wide solventless coating machine at its Italian factory.

For further information K7 601 Call for details 0839 772268

Variable width die can be retrofitted

An adjustable width extrusion die that also eliminates edge beads when extrusion coating polyethylene, so saving 2-3 per cent of polymer, is introduced by the Egan Division of John Brown Plastics Machinery.

Low weight, at 30lb/in, also allows the Series 361D die to be retrofitted readily to an existing machine without structural changes to the die support.

Choice of adhesives

DCM's Laminastar offers a choice of trolley-in coating heads, providing options for solvent-based, water-based or solventless adhesives.

Running speed has been increased over previous DCM

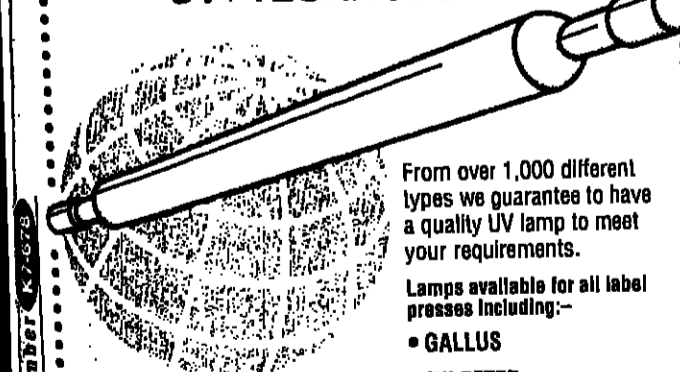
"The Series 361D is one third the weight of its closest competitor," says Egan (Bath Road, Stroud, Glouce GL5 3TL - tel: 0453 762261, fax: 0453 750819). "Many customers are not yet in the market for a new line or a new expensive die, but certainly want access to the latest technology."

For further information K7 602 Call for details 0839 772268

machines, says UK agent Linro (Lowesden Works, Lambourn Woodlands, Newbury, Berks RG16 7RU - tel: 0488 72525, fax: 09488 72302).

For further information K7 603 Call for details 0839 772268

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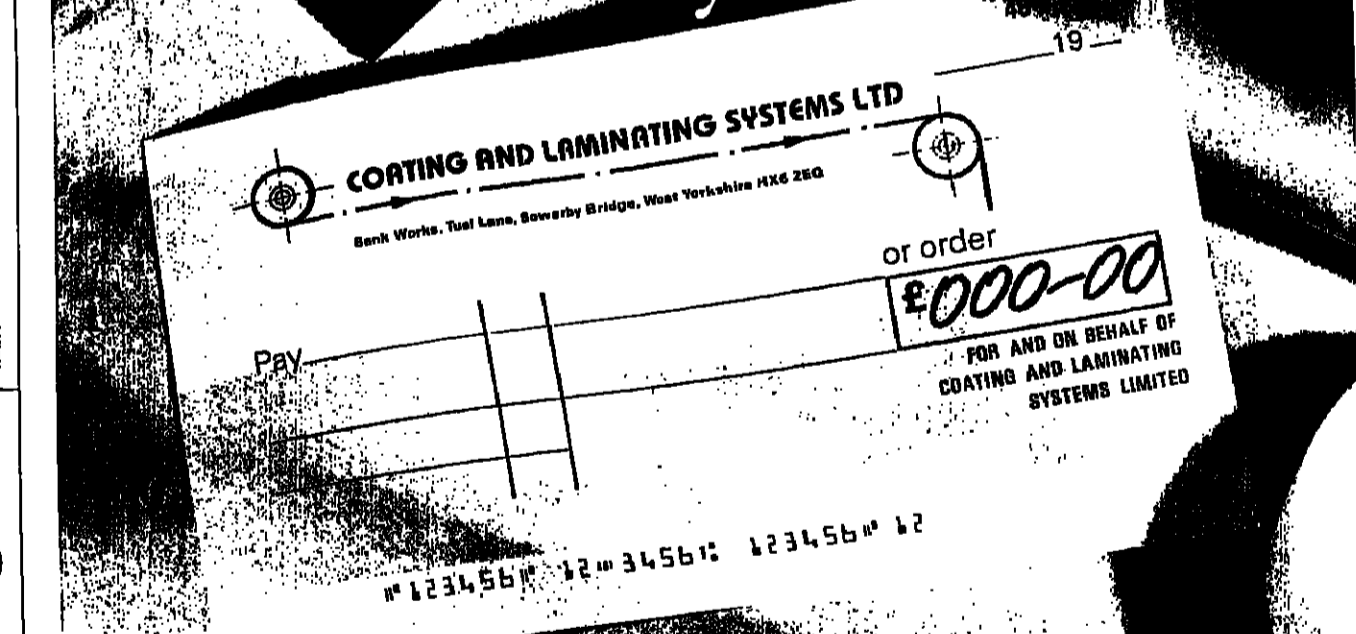
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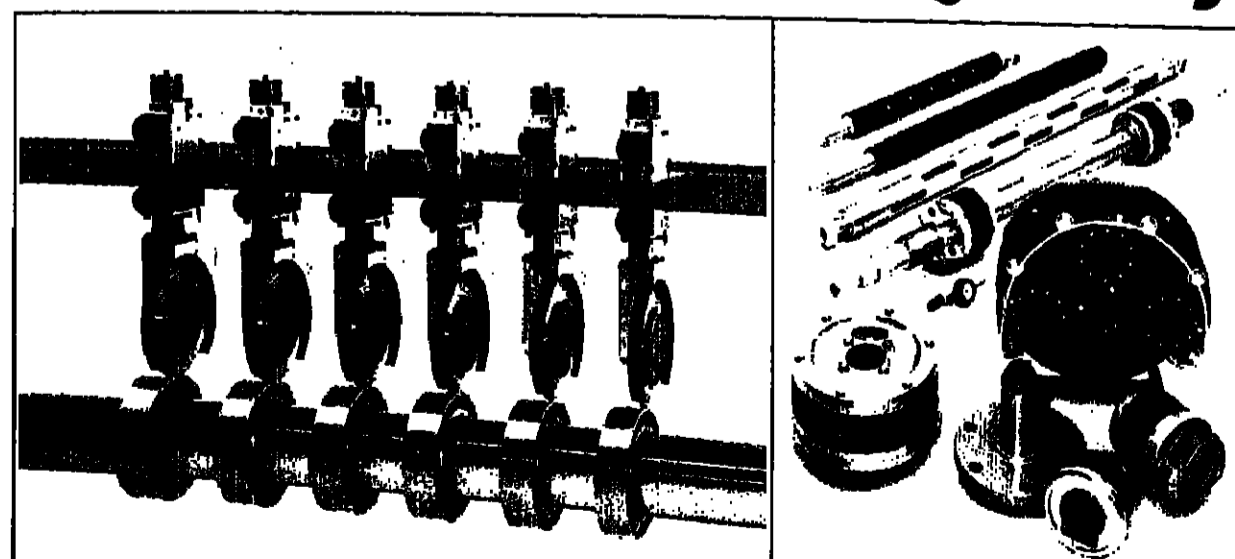
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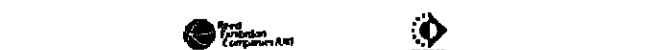
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Finisher opts for thermal lamination

Laminating and die-cutting specialist First Move Finishers in Milton Keynes has installed the first of Lamtex Ltd's T720 in-line thermal laminators.

The sheet-to-sheet machine has a maximum size range of 720mm wide x 1020mm long and operates at speeds up to 65m/min depending on paper size, weight and quality. For operator convenience, and to avoid heavy lifts, the reels of

pre-coated film are loaded at the side of the machine with the web taken in by a turner bar. There is also an anti-curl roller system.

First Move partner Gavin Leake says that demonstrations of the T720 on solid black stock were convincing. "We were impressed with the high gloss levels achieved. The machine could run at speed, with one operator, and the

sheets were stacked neatly at the end of the jogger."

As well as the thermal laminator, seven types of water-based laminating machines are built by Lamtex (Unit 3B, Westhorpe Fields Business Park, Green Lane, Westhorpe, Killamarsh, Derbyshire S31 8BD - tel: 0742 510988, fax: 0742 510977). The company has also developed its own cva water-based adhesives.

According to Lamtex, thermal lamination has become increasingly popular, particularly since the price of film has fallen over the past five years. "Film thickness has also been reduced from 40 micron to 20 micron making the film more cost-effective. Larger numbers of manufacturers are now also producing pre-coated film."

For further information K7-604 Call for details 0839 772268

Dies under pressure

Bottom feed dies, supplied under pressure from a pump, have been incorporated in the Pagendam Akkugravur 2000 coating system to improve accuracy across the entire width of the web.

Being pump fed, the pressure within the system can be readily regulated via a feedback control and can be used also to vary coating weight from a given gravure cylinder cell size by ± 50 per cent.

"This means that, for example, with a cylinder sized for 10gsm, pump pressure can be varied to give a range of 5-20gsm. The number of cylinders that may be required by a particular operation can therefore be reduced," points out Pagendam's UK agent Simplex Turbulor (Wherwell Priority, Wherwell, near Andover, Hants SP11 7JH - tel: 0264 860186, fax: 0264 860180).

Pagendam has also recently concluded an agreement with the Swiss manufacturer Bematec to install its gear-in-die hot melt applicator systems on Pagendam coaters.

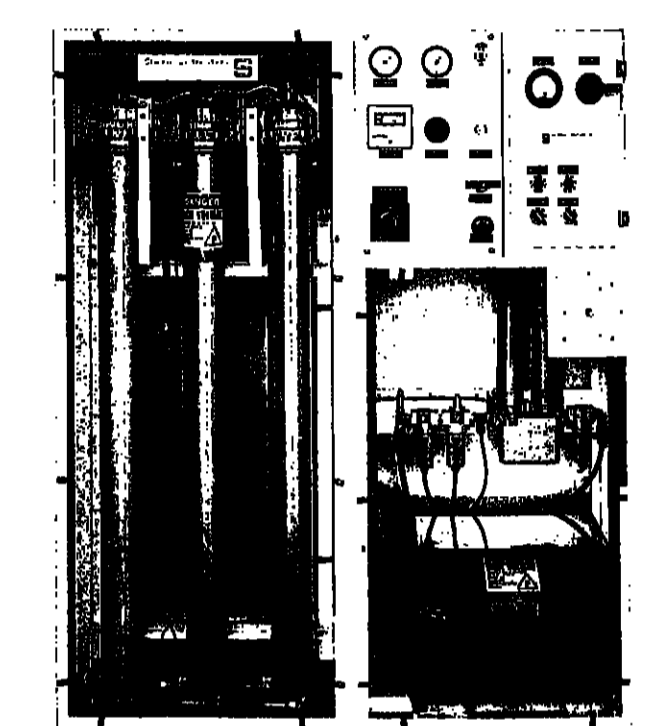
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Oxidation aids coating adhesion

Ozonisers have been introduced by Sherman Treaters to oxidise polymer extrudates on extrusion coating lines, allowing lower die temperatures to be used without reduced adhesion to the carrier web.

"Many modern polymers are more easily extruded at lower die temperatures than those traditionally used, so at temperatures around 300deg C benefits are to be gained which warrant the use of ozonisers," says Sherman (Dormer Road, Thame Industrial Estate, Thame, Oxon OX9 3UW - tel: 0844 213686, fax: 0844 217172). Benefits include improved heat sealability, reduction of odour and off-taste and increased production speeds. In certain extrusion coating applications introduction of the ozoniser can eliminate primers.

For further information K7-605 Call for details 0839 772268



Ozonisers improve heat sealability and reduce odour and off-taste

Laboratory scale slot die

Slot die manufacturer Shepherd Associates has introduced a 250mm wide unit for hot melt coating on laboratory or small production machinery.

Application is via either

contact rollers or contactless from the die, while cold adhesives or polymers can also be handled, says Shepherd (16 Knowsley Road, Hoole, Chester CH2 3RL - tel: 0244 341283, fax: 0244 341283).

Also produced by the company is a slow speed gear pump operating in the range 5-250rpm. Drive is from an explosion-proof motor with variable speed control.

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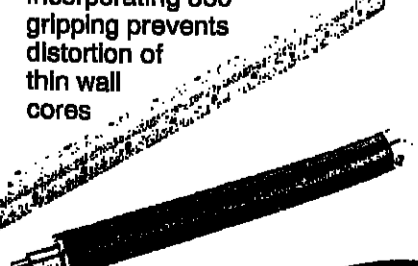
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The boom in solventless laminating

Solventless laminating adhesives have shown tremendous growth over the last five years. The promise of reduced curing times from days to hours is pushing the laminating adhesives manufacturers in a drive to be the first to lay what promises to be the golden egg.

Although water-based adhesives have also captured market share, the 30-40 per cent premium in costs and the limitations in performance mean that they are never going to be the ultimate alternative to solvent-based adhesives.

Instead companies are looking at uv and eb curing. At Papro in Germany for the first time Kroenert GmbH ran demonstrations of uv curing on foil and film and film with laminating adhesives from competitors Henkel KGaA and Herberts GmbH.

However, problems and scepticism still abound. Where to place the uv lamps on the machines so that they do not overheat or bend the main body, the cost of the raw materials and how to get the adhesives to be not only general or medium-performance but high-performance too, at a cost converters will pay for.

"Unsuitable for contact with foods"

The major stumbling block is US Food and Drug legislation and European Union (EU) legislation. Most of the additives being tested for uv curing are on the EU B list which means they are considered unsuitable for contact with foodstuffs due to inadequate data available.

The same situation exists in the USA. However, migration tests with opp/pe laminate at an independent institute, ISEGA, show safety for indirect food contact.

Once companies can convince the EU, development will really take off, but there is much uncertainty as to how long this will take.

Although trials continue between the major adhesives manufacturers at their own r&d sites or with customers, one German converter, Sengewald, is now using uv curing for industrial scale professional work. The company is printing in uv flexo and laminating in uv with an adhesive from Herberts (010 49 02 02 529 2463) as well as running trials with uv-curable adhesives from different suppliers.

While reportedly only for general performance work, after years of talk things look as if they may well take off sooner as opposed to later.

Dr Ernst Kowach of Herberts admits there have been problems with the lamps and developments are underway to create lamps with a 308 wavelength, since this is better for the machine and the foil and stops it being distorted by the heat.

"With this wavelength there is no infra-red and so there is also no cooling system needed," he explains. "At present, the foil must be cooled on the roller tunnel."

He estimates that within two years secondary food packaging will use uv curing for laminating adhesives.

Kroenert's machine is a standard solvent free machine equipped with uv lamps from German manufacturer Adnos GmbH. Henkel's material was an aluminium/pep material while Herbert's was

The reason for solvent less success is undoubtedly that less coating is needed in comparison to solvent-based or water-based. Only 1.5g/sq m are needed per coating as opposed to 2-3g/sq m for water based.

We have also developed uv curing adhesives because of the obvious reduction time in curing and it is 100 per cent solventless. But there are presently some disadvantages. The raw materials for uv have not been listed yet and they need approval for every single structure. Not everyone is willing to pay the high price," says Mr Jochim.

"So we have developed a high-performance solventless adhesive which uses an external catalyst. You coat the film with the adhesive and the second film will be coated with the external catalyst just before lamination is done so that when they are stuck together the catalyst accelerates the curing of the adhesive, thus reducing curing time," explains Mr Jochim.

Henkel (010 490211 797 8743) has developed a few prototype uv curing laminating adhesives which it is trialling with various clients.

"The large scale future is in solvent free in flexible packaging," Dr Kinzelmann technical manager at Henkel, tells CW.

"Although trials are underway, there are still lots of prob-

lems with modifying the machinery, and while the adhesives are not approved the packaging industry will not accept them.

"Also the raw materials are very expensive, substantially more than solvent less. Uv is easier than solvent less, it has a higher initial tack, faster curing and is suitable for barrier films. It also has the advantage of being a one component system so there is no mixing," adds Dr Kinzelmann.

"When the time is right"

As Holden business manager Ian Lane, the UK adhesives manufacturer, tells CW, it too is conducting tests on uv, but in house. Mr Lane says it will launch a uv product when the time is right, ever mindful of EU lists and legislation.

He admits the firm is cautious about uv due to the odour and the cost of the raw materials. "We are not promoting these products because there is no-one to sell to at the moment."

Most research and development is undoubtedly being spent on enhancing the range of solventless laminating adhesives. Water-based is very much perceived as a temporary solution, and often a route taken by those forced to on environmental grounds, who do not wish to make a huge capital outlay at this point in time.

As the chemical limitations of water-based means that it tends to be used for pasta and snack food packaging and is of a general performance level.

"There is no sense for these products to change to uv. It is faster and cheaper using water based at present," says Dr Kinzelmann.



Checking the molecular weight spread of adhesives at Holden's R&D site



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